



Debate on taking deadly weapons off streets deferred

# BREXIT DELAYS NEW KNIFE LAW

Report by Peter Madeley

**DEBATE** over Brexit has delayed a new law designed to clamp down on knife crime – just days after fatal stabbings in Brierley Hill and Wolverhampton.

The landmark Offensive Weapons Bill was due to go before the House of Commons on Monday.

The legislation aims to introduce strict laws on the sale, delivery and possession of knives. It comes after an investigation by The Chronicle's sister newspaper, the Express & Star, revealed that a loophole in the law meant machetes with 20-inch blades could be bought.



Christopher Harm

Richard Helm, 37, was killed in Wolverhampton on Friday, and Christopher Harm, 28, from Gateshead, was stabbed to death in Brierley Hill during the early hours of Saturday – taking the number of people knifed to death across the West Midlands to 13 this year.

But the latest stage of the bill had to be postponed at the last minute – to a date yet to be set – so MPs could debate the latest Brexit developments.

Mike Wood, Conservative MP for Dudley South, said tougher laws were 'vital' in the crackdown on knife crime. He added: "There are some knives that can only be used for violence. We need to take them off our streets."

The legislation places a ban on the possession of so-called 'zombie' knives, reclassifies certain firearms as 'prohibited' and addresses acid attacks by introducing an offence of possessing a corrosive substance in a public place.

Christopher Harm died at Engine Lane, Brierley Hill, from a single stab wound.

His family said in a statement: "A loving son, dad and brother gone so tragically and a family left in pieces forever."

Glen Elvin, aged 25, of no fixed address, has been charged with Mr Harm's murder.

## IT'S A THRILLER AS KIERAN LANDS JACKSON ROLE



Kieran Edwards is starring as Michael Jackson in *Motown: The Musical*, which is at Birmingham from tonight (Thursday). Picture: Tristram Kenton

A SCHOOLBOY from Tividale has been cast as Michael Jackson in a major stage show that's going on a UK-wide tour.

Kieran Edwards, a Year 8 student at the Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy in Tividale, is starring as the pop superstar in *Motown: The Musical*.

Twelve-year-old Kieran will represent the young Michael Jackson and his early pop and

soul music career in the hit show, as it visits 11 cities, performing at theatres including Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre, where it opened this week and continues until November 3.

The musical follows the career of Motown record label founder Berry Gordy and the creation of his musical empire, which started out in Detroit, nicknamed the Motor City.

Other acts being recreated in the show include Diana Ross and the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, the Temptations, as well as Michael Jackson and the Jackson 5.

Kieran said: "I was so excited to find out that I had been selected for the part, I couldn't really believe it. Everyone at school has been really supportive and excited for me. Michael Jackson is such an icon."

## TRESPASS

### Borough risks being the 'traveller capital'

DUDLEY will become the 'traveller capital of the Black Country' if plans for a temporary site in Coseley are delayed, a councillor has warned.

Conservative councillor Simon Phipps criticised the new Labour leaders of Dudley Council over their pledge to review the plans for the transit site at Budden Road.

Speaking at the first full council since Labour regained control, the Belle Vale ward councillor said travellers had caused chaos across the borough and any delay in creating a dedicated site would put all open spaces at risk of invasion.

## PLANNING

### Brakes put on new cemetery scheme

COUNCILLORS have put the brakes on controversial plans to build a huge new cemetery on open green land in Rowley Regis.

A decision over the site opposite the Powke Lane Crematorium has been deferred to a later date after councillors expressed concerns at Sandwell Council's full council meeting on Tuesday. Several councillors said they would vote against it, greeted with cheers and applause in the public gallery.

## POLICE

### More than 100 firearms seized

WEST Midlands Police has taken more than 100 firearms off the streets so far this year as part of its clamp down on organised crime.

The officer leading the fight against gangs, Detective Inspector Al Teague, says the recoveries have 'undoubtedly saved lives'.

The haul includes handguns, sawn-off shotguns and a semi-automatic pistol.

## INSIDE

### STARS OUT FOR DUNCAN DINNER



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# Tunisia attack families to sue TUI



Charles Evans, Joel Richards, Adrian Evans

FAMILIES of the Tunisia terror attack victims are suing travel agent TUI.

Thirty British tourists were murdered in the attack - including three members of the same Black Country family.

Legal firm Irwin Mitchell has served formal court papers against TUI on behalf of the families of 22 of the victims. The case centres on security at the Imperial Marhaba Hotel in Sousse and an alleged lack of travel safety information presented to customers.

At the conclusion of the six-week inquest into the deaths last year, coroner Judge Nicholas Lorraine-Smith did reject suggestions 'neglect' by travel companies played any part in the deaths.

But the inquest, which ruled the victims were unlawfully killed, revealed security guards at the hotel were poorly trained and there was limited CCTV coverage.

Following the hearing, Suzy Evans, from Wednesday, said she planned to launch civil action against TUI. Her 19-year-old son

Joel, her brother Adrian Evans and father Patrick Evans, were victims. Youngest son Owen, then 16, survived the attack in June 2015.

Kylie Hutchison, a specialist personal injury lawyer at Irwin Mitchell, said: "We have now served formal civil proceedings on TUI claiming damages."

A TUI spokesman said: "As this is now subject to legal proceedings it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage, except to say we will fully cooperate with the judicial process."

# Public space protection order may be extended

**A PUBLIC space protection order (PSPO) could be brought in across the whole of a Dudley borough, under new plans being considered by the council.**

Council bosses at a recent meeting said they will 'seriously' consider extending a PSPO currently in force at Fens Pool Nature Reserve to combat anti-social behaviour and the use of illegal off-road bikes into a borough-wide scheme.

More than 2,000 people signed Dudley South MP Mike Wood's petition earlier this year, which he presented to the House of Commons in February, calling for the PSPO. The move was originally started by Councillor Karen Shakespeare.

Councillor David Stanley was concerned they biker yobs would just move to another area of the borough. He said: "I think it would make common sense to do the whole of the borough with this public space protection order, so we don't just move them from one place to another."

"Perhaps we could look at doing a blanket public space protection order for the whole of the borough like our neighbours have done in Sandwell. If they can do it I am sure Dudley can."

## Pilot

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for environmental services, said the move was something the authority would 'seriously' consider moving forward, describing the current PSPO as a 'pilot scheme'.

"Obtaining the order is not the difficult part, it is the enforcement which is the difficult part and that is the part which the police undertakes," he said.

"Certainly it is a good idea. We want to look into that but it is important that we obtain the police's view and make sure they are on board when this order is taken further."

"We will look into it seriously."

## New hub offers carers a helping hand



Councillor John Martin at the carers hub in Dudley with Nicola McGregor and Paul Astley

A NEW information hub, which offers support and advice to borough carers, has opened its doors in Dudley.

The carers hub, based at Queens Cross Network on Wellington Road, aims to support anyone who is caring for a relative, neighbour or friend who has a long term illness, disability or is elderly and frail.

Dudley Council runs the facility, which aims to improve the lives of local carers to ensure they receive

all of the practical help, advice and support they need to ease their caring responsibilities.

It's open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and people are able to pop in at a times that suit them. Staff will be on hand to offer information and advice.

Carers can also find out about local community groups that could offer an opportunity to socialise with people going through similar experiences.

Councillor John Martin, cabinet

member for adult social care, joined carers co-ordinator Nicola McGregor and Paul Astley, from Queens Cross Network, for the official opening last week. He said: "Carers play a crucial role in our communities. We appreciate how difficult it can be for carers to find the time to seek advice and support. With our new hub, carers can pop in or pick up the phone at a time that suits them."

Call (01384) 818723 or email carers.network@dudley.gov.uk

# Book early for discount at bonfire spectacular

PEOPLE are being urged to book discounted tickets for Himley Bonfire next month, after it was revealed premium tickets have sold out.

More than 1,500 tickets have already been sold for the 20,000 capacity bonfire event on November 3.

This year's bonfire will celebrate inspirational heroes and heroines from the world of entertainment and sport, as well as family members and people who are remarkable in their own way.

As a respectful commemoration of the end of the First World War, 100 years on a unique tribute will also be paid.

The towering bonfire of 1,500 pallets will be the centrepiece and there will be a 25-minute fireworks display, synchronised to music. Visitors can also enjoy the Heart 100.7 roadshow, a giant funfair, a night market, live entertainment and seasonal refreshments.

Councillor Keiran Casey, Dudley Council's cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: "Tickets are flying off the shelves and the premium tickets are now all sold out. I would encourage everyone to book online now and save up to 20 per cent on their tickets."

A standard adult ticket is £10, standard child and senior citizen £5.50. Gates open 4.30pm, the bonfire is lit at 7.45pm.

## Patriotic music at Armistice concert

A CONCERT to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that saw the end of the First World War will be held in Stourbridge Town Hall next weekend.

Stourbridge Choir and Orchestra will be presenting a mixed programme of songs of the trenches, music hall favourites and classical pieces, including Holst's Mars and Venus, on Saturday, October 27, at 7pm.

The choir and orchestra, conducted by Martin Sleaford, will also perform Last Night at the Proms favourite Jerusalem.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 children aged 16 and under, and tickets can be obtained by calling (01384) 373111 or at the boroughhalls.co.uk website, with the box office available on (01384) 812812.

## Take a butchers at housing scheme

A FORMER butcher's shop and abattoir could be demolished to make way for housing, under new plans lodged with Dudley Council.

The Tomlinson's premises in Commside, Pennest, would be replaced with three homes.

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# 500 officers could go due to £20m pensions bill

WEST Midlands Police could be forced to shed nearly 500 officers after the Treasury hit it with a pensions bill of more than £20 million.

Chief Constable Dave Thompson warns that an 'utterly extraordinary' increase in force pensions contributions ordered by the Government could lead to a drastic reduction in officer numbers.

Mr Thompson has called for an emergency budget to address the proposal, which he says will cost the force £8.6m next year and a further £14m the year after.

He has accused ministers of 'getting their maths wrong' and warned that the changes would have 'a significant impact' on the level of policing.

It comes as West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said cuts to the tune of £175m had been made to the force since 2010. He says the region needs £85m extra and 500 more officers to tackle the region's crimewave

Addressing the pensions decision at a meeting this week, Mr Thompson said: "This is utterly extraordinary. I don't think I have ever seen anything dropped on us at such short notice."

"There is a significant impact. There is a reduction of approaching 500 officers. Clearly our intention is not to do that, but lets be realistic, that is a huge amount of money we are talking about."

## Hospital services to be scaled down

SERVICES at Sandwell General Hospital are likely to be scaled down next year with some services shifted to City Hospital at Winson Green.

Health chiefs had been planning to scale down Sandwell General to coincide with the opening of the £475 million Midland Metropolitan Hospital at Smethwick but that has been hit by a major delay due to the collapse of Carillion.

It has not yet been announced which services will be affected but Sandwell NHS Trust chief executive Toby Lewis told councillors that changes would not be as extreme as those originally planned for the move to the Midland Met.

Due to the Met delay, some of the emergency services due to move from Sandwell will likely transfer to City Hospital in 2019. Chiefs plan to sustain A&E at both hospitals but warned that could change if they were hit by unexpected staff losses.

A separate report by director of commissioning Jayne Dunn raised the possibility of an urgent plan being drawn up if the trust suffers problems with staffing.

# Popular TV comic to top Cornbow Hall bill



Milton Jones – Halesowen gig

A POPULAR television comic is to perform in Halesowen next month.

One-liner specialist Milton Jones, who is a regular on radio and TV, including Mock The Week, will be top of the bill at the Cornbow Hall on November 24.

It will be the second Comedy At The Cornbow event following a hugely successful sell-out first show headlined by Canadian Tom Stade.

Jones will be supported by Paul Thorne and Gavin Webster, which is hosted by MC and Dudley comic Wayne Beese.

Mr Beese said: "Getting an act of Milton's stature to headline, especially after

getting Stade too, is a massive statement of intent and we want to bring more big names to the town. It's a real triple headline bill as both Paul and Gavin are far from support acts, they both headline all the big comedy clubs in their own right."

Doors open at 7pm on the night and tickets start at £18.50.

Meanwhile, TV comics Lost Voice Guy and Angelos Epithemiou will take centre stage when a Stourbridge pub hosts its second four-day comedy festival next month. They are among 13 professional acts who will perform as part of Fitz Fest 2, which will be held in the marquee at

Katie Fitzgerald's in Wollaston from November 8 to 11.

Britain's Got Talent winner Lost Voice Guy is headlining the opening night, which has already sold out. Angelos, who appeared on Shooting Stars, will headline on November 10.

Tez Ilyas, who has appeared on Mock The Week and Man Like Mobeen, headlines November 9 and closing the festival on November 11 will be Paul Tonkinson, former host of The Big Breakfast. Tickets for the remaining three shows cost £15 each, plus booking fees. Visit [www.ticketsource.co.uk/funnybeeseness](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/funnybeeseness) for tickets.

# Black Country heroes go for gold in Sydney

**A TRIO of Black Country heroes are taking on their next challenge – on the other side of the world.**

Injured servicemen David Watson from Halesowen, Karl Hinett, from Dudley, and Clive Smith from Walsall are representing team UK at this year's Invictus Games in Australia.

The Black Country contingent make up the 72 wounded men and women aiming to bring home the medals when the games begin in Sydney on October 20.

The tournament for wounded services personnel was started by Prince Harry. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who are in Australia as part of their first official royal tour since their marriage, will visit the Games. It was announced this week that the couple are expecting their first child.

David Watson, aged 32, is originally from Preston and now lives in Halesowen. He joined the Army in 2008, serving in the Scots Guards. He was injured on a routine foot patrol in Afghanistan in 2010 when he stepped on a hidden improvised explosive device. He lost both of his legs and most of his right arm and was medically discharged from the Army in 2014.

### Gold

Now the father-of-three is returning to the Invictus Games stage as a champion in the competition. The shot-put and discus thrower won a bronze and gold respectively at last year's games in Toronto. He is also aiming for the Paralympics in the future.

He said: "I'm putting my discus title on the line this year and the aim is to come home with two gold medals, but we'll see what happen."

Karl Hinett is competing in his first Invictus Games and will be aiming for gold in the 1,500 metres race. The 31-year-old joined the Army as a private in the Staffordshire Regiment in 2004, aged 17. In 2005 he was deployed to Basra in Iraq and five months into his service was badly injured during a riot when the Warrior Tank he was travelling in was petrol-bombed and he suffered severe burns.

Veteran Army Lance Corporal Clive Smith is taking on his third games in wheelchair rugby. He lost both of his legs in Afghanistan when a bomb he was attempting to defuse blew up.



Halesowen's David Watson in action – he won a gold medal and a bronze at last year's games in Canada



David Watson enters his second Invictus Games



Karl Hinett will compete in the 1,500 metres race

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Council rating tattoo parlours

RESIDENTS in Dudley thinking of getting a tattoo or piercing can find out the cleanest and safest places to go thanks to a new scheme.

Businesses offering such services can request an official hygiene check, which will provide customers with the information they need.

The programme, similar to the food hygiene ratings system that has been running for a number of years, aims to raise standards and help ensure the public is well informed when deciding which business to use. It also includes businesses that offer semi-permanent make-up.

See [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) for details.

## Wrestler to reveal man behind mask

WRESTLING legend Kendo Nagasaki will smash his way into the ring in the Black Country later this month – launching an autobiography revealing the man behind the mask.

The retired cape-wearing wrestler, now aged 76, will reveal his identity to fans during the All Star Promotions event at Dudley Town Hall on October 27. It has been organised as part of a bid to raise £1 million for the Lee Rigby Foundation.

In contrast to his sporting persona, Peter Thornley is a Zen Buddhist who until now has avoided the spotlight.

## Sir Lenny narrates Christmas special

SIR Lenny Henry will narrate much-loved children's picture book Zog when it comes to TV screens this Christmas.

Dudley-born Sir Lenny is lending his voice as the narrator for the animated story of Zog, an accident-prone dragon, when the popular children's book is made into a TV show for BBC One. It was written by The Gruffalo and Room on the Broom author Julia Donaldson and is illustrated by Axel Scheffler. Other famous voices will include Lenny's former Three of a Kind co-star Tracey Ullman.

## Roll up, roll up for spooky circus thrills

A HALLOWEEN-THEMED circus will be rolling into Brierley Hill this month.

Gandey's Circus has promised a Halloween 'spooktacular' filled with thrills when it comes to intu Merry Hill shopping centre later this month.

The big top will be set up at the hopping centre's car park between October 26 and November 4. For show times and tickets, visit [www.gandeyscircus.com](http://www.gandeyscircus.com) website.

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## 4 P-arty time at Halloween craft events

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, October 18, 2018

HALLOWEEN has never been so arty, thanks to a series of workshops and themed fun days in the West Midlands.

A number of events are planned at the Red House Glass Cone and Dudley Museum throughout October half term.

It starts with a two-hour Halloween-themed jewellery workshop at the Glass Cone on October 29, followed by an In the Day of the Dead Glass Fusion session on October 30.

There will also be a trick and treat around the site on October 31, where children can visit the site in their fancy dress, create a goody bag and then go trick or treating.

Finally, on November 2 the cone will be hosting its very own Day of the Dead which will include crafts, trail and glass blowing demonstrations.

While over at Dudley Archives there will be a Monster Mash Day on October 30 with fun crafts and activities with a spooky theme.

Councillor Keiran Casey said: "There's lots to do for children and families at our museums this half-term, with drop-in crafts, fused glass sessions and themed fun days. The Day of the Dead activities in particular will give children the chance to enjoy getting creative in a riot of colours in a range of materials."

## Teenager is charged with taxi robberies

A TEENAGER has been charged following a series of robberies on taxi drivers in Dudley and Sandwell which took place between October 10 and 12. A 17-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court on Saturday, where he pleaded not guilty to two charges of attempted robbery and three charges of robbery.

# 'Lifeline' charity for patients who have pancreatic cancer

## Call to sort recycling to save costs

HOUSEHOLDS have been warned to separate their own recycling by council chiefs who claim it is costing too much time and money for council staff to sort.

Bosses at Dudley Council say not enough people are sorting the rubbish themselves, which causes problems when the recycling is sent off.

The practice of co-mingling, where households do not separate recycling, has been hitting the headlines recently for having a negative impact on the environment.

Council bosses have pledged to continue to collect separated waste only. Where mixed recycling is collected, it has to be sorted, which takes time, costs more money to transport and can cause cross contamination reducing the quality of recycled items. Dudley Council collects sorted recycling to avoid this.

Residents can recycle plastic bottles, tins, jam jar lids, aerosols, drinks and food cans in their green bag, while glass bottles and jars are collected in black boxes. They are asked to recycle paper and card, including newspapers, magazines, junk mail, telephone directories, cereal boxes, greeting cards, ready meal sleeves, cardboard egg boxes and brown corrugated cardboard in their blue bag.

The council does not collect lower grade plastics such as plastic trays for meat or fruit, plastic tubs for margarine and ice cream, yoghurt pots, flower pots, and plastic film.



Councillor Khurshid Ahmed says the council want to encourage people to recycle

ALMOST 900 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer each year across the West Midlands.

It has the lowest survival rate of all the 20 common cancers which means it is a devastating diagnoses for the patient as well as their family and friends.

Help is on hand from Anna McNee, of Stourbridge, who is one of Pancreatic Cancer UK's three community co-ordinators. The charity provides expert advice for patients, their families and carers and also funds vital research into the disease.

Anna works across the West Midlands sharing essential information about pancreatic cancer to patients, family members and healthcare professionals.

"Sadly it's the 11th most common cancer and the fifth most common cause of cancer death so it's really quite vital to get this information out there," says Anna, who has been in the role since March.

### Tailored

She hosts information stands at the region's hospitals covering topics such as treatments, surgical procedures, diet and managing symptoms.

Advice is also tailored towards carers and family members and Anna is supported by trained volunteers who man the stands with her.

"We want to engage with them as close to diagnosis as possible to make sure they can benefit from the support sooner. We talk to a lot of patients and we have found that they see us a lifeline."

She is urging people to support Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in November. To get involved email westmidlands@pancreaticcancer.org.uk or for more information see www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk website.

## Swing easy with Miller orchestra

CLASSIC tunes made famous by such great crooners as Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin will be heard at a special swing music show in Dudley on Sunday.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra, led by Ray McVay, musical director for the original BBC Come Dancing series, will perform a Sunday afternoon show at Dudley Town Hall at 3pm.

Alex Jackson, of Dudley Borough Halls, said: "We're really excited to welcome The Glenn Miller Orchestra to Dudley for what promises to be a great Sunday afternoon concert. The orchestra maintains the exact line-up on stage devised by Glenn, plus a male and female vocalist."

The show also pays tribute to such other famous band leaders of the 1930s and 40s as Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman.

Tickets cost £24. Call the box office on (01384) 812812.

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# Betting giant to repay dogs home money gambled by boss

**GAMBLING** giant Paddy Power Betfair has been fined more than £2 million after allowing former Birmingham Dogs Home boss Simon Price to gamble money stolen from the charity.

The business has also agreed to repay to the dogs home stolen money gambled away by addict Mr Price on its sites to the dogs home. Mr Price gambled away £640,000 of the £894,753 he stole.

It is not known how much was gambled with Paddy Power Betfair but the charity will receive a slice of the firm's £500,000 divestment. Birmingham Dogs Home runs Sunnyside Centre in Coven, South Staffordshire, as well as its base in Solihull.

## University role for acclaimed local architect

A RENOWNED Stourbridge-born architect who helped remodel some Birmingham's landmarks and is now overseeing the redevelopment of Paradise Circus has been named as a visiting professor at Birmingham City University's School of Architecture.

Glenn Howells will provide a series of masterclasses for students and offer advice to those training to enter the profession.

Mr Howells established Glenn Howells Architects (GHA) in London before moving its main office to Digbeth, Birmingham, in 1992, whilst retaining an office in the capital. He has built a strong reputation for designing innovative and award-winning buildings throughout the UK.

His projects included The National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield and the Savill Building at Windsor. He has also remodelled the Custard Factory and Rotunda in Birmingham.

The Gambling Commission fined the firm £2.2m after discovering 'significant' amounts of stolen money had been gambled with Paddy Power's online exchange Betfair after it failed to carry out proper money laundering checks. An investigation by the watchdog also found Paddy Power did not protect three customers showing signs of gambling addiction.

### Jailed

The commission's inquiry centred on five customers in 2016, including two who were allowed to gamble stolen money - one of whom was disgraced former Birmingham Dogs Home chief executive Mr Price.

He and his wife Alayna admitted cheating the charity out of £894,754 over four years from 2012. Mr Price was jailed for five years at the end of 2017, while Mrs Price was given a two-year suspended term.

Paddy Power Betfair will pay £1.7 million to charity Gamble Aware and £498,508 to be shared by victims and impacted parties, including the dogs home, as well as £50,000 for the commission's investigation costs.

## Borough's oldest resident Albert dies



A former toolmaker in the glass industry, Albert Taylor, of Kingswinford, was 108

ONE of the Black Country's oldest residents, 'a devoted family man', has died at the age of 108.

Albert Taylor, from Kingswinford, was among the five oldest men in the UK. Born in Catshill in 1910, he lived through both world wars, knew a time before television, saw England lift the World Cup and watched 25 Prime Ministers come and go. He was the eldest and last surviving of seven children and lived in Kingswinford for more than 50 years.

Mr Taylor was taken in to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley with a chest infection before contracting pneumonia. He died on Friday more than five months after turning 108 in May.

Mr Taylor left school at 14 to work at Stewarts Glassworks in Amblecote as a toolmaker. He had two sons, Robert and Roger, with his late wife Mary, and has three grandsons, Andrew, Simon and Richard.

His son Robert, aged 73, who lives in Shropshire, said: "I'm very lucky to have had a father like him, I can't give him more of a glowing tribute. He always had time for people. He was very caring and always friendly."

"I took him on holiday to Tobago and Florida when he was in his 90s and he took that all in his stride, as he did with most things. He enjoyed his fitness classes until he was 90."

"I never saw him lose his temper, he was very calm and just a lovely man, and that's how people will remember him."

## Motorist is sent to prison for causing a head-on crash

A DRIVER was 'just a whisker' under the legal alcohol limit when he made a devastating mistake that has left another motorist with life changing injuries.

Mitchell Cox, from Oldbury, thought he was on a motorway slip-road rather than an ordinary carriageway when he ploughed head-on into an oncoming car.

Victim Ian Stoddart could have been burned alive if people had not rushed to his aid and dragged him out as the two cars burst into flames.

As it was, 53-year-old Mr Stoddart had multiple fractures to both legs and his collarbone, 22 rib fractures, collapsed lungs and ruptures to his liver and a kidney.

Cox, age 24, of Knotsall Lane was jailed for 16 months after pleading guilty at Warwick Crown Court to causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Prosecutor Daniel Wright said that at 6.20pm on October 28 last year Cox, having visited a friend in Tamworth, headed to junction 10 of the M42 in Warwickshire. Having stopped at traffic lights on the roundabout, Cox had planned to join the M42 to get to the M6 but rather than joining the motorway, he was on Trinity Road, an ordinary single carriageway.

Believing he was on the slip-road, Cox headed round a sweeping right-hand bend into the path of Mr Stoddart, who on his way to his home in Tamworth.

When the police and an ambulance arrived Cox, who had a collapsed lung and a sprained wrist, was given a breath test which gave a reading of 34 - just one below the legal limit for driving.

Ian Speed, defending, said it was a 'tragic accident' and engineer Cox was of previous good character.

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews



# Frazzled? Yes I am with talk on climate

HERE we go again. A new report, which says temperatures have risen by one degree centigrade since the start of the Industrial Revolution, warns of dire consequences unless we take drastic action.

Now I was a little surprised we are comparing meteorological data with that of the pre-industrial world, mainly because I would have thought it was the Industrial Revolution which gave us the technology to compile such measurements.

While the Industrial Revolution has no official start date, historians seem to regard it as sometime around 1760, or maybe with the start of construction of the Iron Bridge in 1777.

In context, Gabriel Fahrenheit invented the thermometer in 1714, and the centigrade scale favoured by the climate scientists arrived in 1743. It seems reasonable, therefore, to suggest that climatology was in its infancy during Abraham Darby's day. In which case, one might wonder how accurate this early equipment would be, and whether contrasting today's climate data with that of the mid-1700s is particularly helpful.

Anyhow, no sooner was the ink dry on the report, the usual voices in the London bubble started lecturing us how we must radically change our lifestyles if we are not to be frazzled like barbecued bacon. A writer in The Guardian told us to stop eating meat – or beef and milk at the very least. And, of course, use public transport to get to work.

Always eager to oblige, I went on to the excellent Network West Midlands Journey Planner website to plot my new commute. Choosing the fastest, rather than the greenest option – sorry, but we've all got to start somewhere – it calculated that to arrive at my desk for 8.30am, I would need to leave home at 5.06am. The journey involves two buses, one train, and 38 minutes walking between various points.

This is instead of a normal 45-60 minute drive in the car, depending on roadworks. It seems to me that if the powers-that-be want to reduce the carbon footprint of my journey to work, there are two options.

They could build an HS3 line through Himley, Wombourne, Trysull and Pattingham, but I suspect this would be neither popular nor environmentally friendly.

Or they could spend a bit on widening the roads – maybe even removing a few bus lanes? – so those of us with no choice but to use our cars spend less time belching out fumes while stuck in traffic. This won't satisfy the desires of The Guardian's hair-shirt brigade. But it might just make our air cleaner.

## After 50 years of booze and bawdiness, it will soon cease



Gwyneth Paltrow – on a radio interview she seemed to have become a croaker



Melania Trump – got some flak during her Africa trip for wearing a pith helmet



Susannah Constantine in Strictly Come Dancing did not get praise from columnist

# 18-30 hols: Well cop a load of this!

IT is easy to rubbish Labour's suggestion of replacing the standard five-day week with a four-day week. But I once worked in an office where they operated a nine-day fortnight. It meant every alternate weekend was a long weekend. The system was popular and worked well, although we all suspected that, no matter whether it was a four or five-day week, we still worked the same number of hours.

SO farewell, Club 18-30. After 50 years of booze and bawdiness, the brand will soon cease operating. I have a certain fondness for it because, back in 1981, my very first freebie was with 18-30 to Majorca. The company wisely put the press party far away from the debauchery, in a four-star hotel. Each day we were taken out to see the 18-30 holidaymakers disporting themselves. The lads were laddish but it was the tipsy, predatory women that came as a surprise. The ringleader, a big, noisy lass, was barely off the airliner before she went both topless and legless. In journalistic mode, I asked what attracted her to a Club 18-30 holiday. "That," she leered, pointing straight at the crotch of a passing lad. Where was she from? "Nottingham." And what did she do for a living? "Police officer."

THE march of AI (artificial intelligence) goes on, with computers making ever-smarter predictions about human needs. I recently ordered a small cushion on eBay. The computers digested this information and quickly posted a "You may like" message. Based on my order of a cushion, eBay suggested I might also like

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



to buy: a pair of stabiliser wheels for a child's cycle, a buffing kit for polishing car wheels, a device for stretching an artist's canvases, a digital automatic fish-food dispenser, a fancy-dress bow tie, four reusable eyebrow shaping stencils and a bow for playing a cello. Uncanny, innit?

I WROTE in June about "vocal fry," the US fad for women to adopt a croak-speak, where the end of every sentence trails off into something resembling a frog's voice. It's been some time since I heard the star who spoke with such crystal-clarity in the 1998 movie, Shakespeare in Love. I caught a radio interview with her this week and have to report, with much sadness, that Gwyneth Paltrow has become a croaker.

A SPECIAL Battle's Over beacon to erect in your garden to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, has been unveiled. I was intrigued by the maker's claim about the gas-fired beacon: "Afterwards, it can be stored and used for future events." What, like the end of the Third World War?

THE unstoppable march of Yankslang continues. In that bible of middle England and English values the Daily Mail, no less, a columnist declares that Susannah Constantine in Strictly

Come Dancing (BBC1) "couldn't have gotten much worse." No, indeed.

MELANIA Trump, the President's wife, got some flak during her Africa trip for wearing that symbol of colonialism, a pith helmet. It's so hard to keep up with politically-correct headgear, isn't it? It's not just the colonial issue. By wearing a hat developed principally by British and French settlers Melania, a Slovenian, was also guilty of cultural appropriation, as she would be if she decided to wear a Mexican sombrero. As it happens, I have a pith helmet. Thankfully, it is not a colonialist pith helmet. I bought it in Vietnam where the Viet Cong guerillas fighting the Americans adopted the helmets worn by their former colonial masters, the French. So mine is not only an anti-colonial helmet but an anti-American helmet, too. As politically-correct Leftie fashion goes it is right up there with a Che Guevara T-shirt or a Palestinian keffiyeh scarf, as worn by Jeremy Corbyn fans everywhere.

CHANCELLOR Philip Hammond promised to raise the threshold at which we start paying income tax to £12,500 from 2020. This would have put an extra £130 a year in every basic rate taxpayer's pocket. Now, faced with an NHS cash crisis there is talk of scrapping the promise. So instead of getting an extra £2.50 a week which we'd hardly notice, collectively we'll be giving our hospitals and nurses an extra £2 billion a year. Now the strange part. In poll after poll, the Brits nobly declare they would gladly support tax rises to help the NHS. Yet now it's happening, you wouldn't believe the whingeing.

## TALKING POINT



# Fans with something to shout about . . .

It's their secret weapon and it definitely works. Well not exactly secret as most weeks it is deafening. I refer to . . . Wolves football fans.

During the club's recent success they have – from the manager down – attributed their attitude, play and determination to the strong support of the Molineux faithful. The many loyal fans who have stuck by them through the bad times – and there have been plenty of those in the recent past – and now to days back into the big time.

In fact Wolves fans have been named as the loudest of all, according to recent statistics released by an American expert. The team's supporters have sent out a message to the rest of the league when they arrive in Wolverhampton – Come On, Feel The Noise.

And that won't be difficult to believe for anyone who has been inside a raucous Molineux on a Saturday afternoon. So the feel-good factor surrounding the club has transferred to the stands. And why not?

OK I know I am biased being a Wolves fan – not a real supporter as my Chesterfield-supporting colleague points out, as if I was I would put my money where my mouth is and pay money to watch the team, whatever the weather – point taken I suppose. His take is that the noise has risen from all the 'fans' who have jumped on board the Premier league bandwagon. Sounds like sour grapes to me – after all which division are Chesterfield are in again?

Boss Nuno and his players remarked on the difference playing in front of a partisan crowd can make. Nuno said: "Our fans are special and we appreciate it."

And captain Conor Coady has reinforced that. In fact I am sure he would love to shout his thanks to all the fans – from the rooftops. And it's not just in the stands and on the pitch where the feel-good factor has shone out. For all those people who watched the Championship-winning parade bus travel through Wolverhampton and went to the following party in the park it was awe-inspiring. Something that all the fans – and those who maybe for financial or other reasons – do not get to see all the matches a chance to see the players and rejoice. Evidently, this has a positive knock-on effect for the rest of the city, too.

I was present in Queen Square for the Championship celebrations and the noise was also deafening. Names called out, songs sung and a lovely warm feeling that swept the whole city along. Why would you want to keep quiet about that?

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# Brexit will hasten global warming

HAVING received stark warnings of the consequences of global warming and seeing the devastation in America, the Pacific and even in the Mediterranean, I would have thought that the developed nations would take whatever actions are necessary to avoid such consequences.

Here in Britain we are about to take actions that will undoubtedly accelerate global warming.

The 'Brexiters' conveniently overlook the impact of global trade on the environment.

Within the EU, much of our trade trav-

# Vigilante culture on rise due to cuts

WE don't need to be told how lawlessness has taken hold in this country, we al-

ready know. My concern is what happens when we have a culture of vigilantes because we can't believe or see any kind of change to our laws.

Shortly we won't have a police force because no-one will want the job with all the cuts and even the police are being attacked.

This country is a mess because people at the top, the high earners, are not doing their jobs.

I think that we should ask them to resign. We should have a debate, then we might see action.

We can't keep plodding on doing nothing.

JUDITH FISHER  
Tividale

els just 26 miles across the English Channel and back.

The Government is seeking trade deals with America, China and others.

Brexit will bring hundreds more massive container vessels and aircraft going to and fro across the globe every day, chugging out more CO2 into the atmosphere, thereby further accelerating global warming.

Look at your children and grandchildren. If we carry on with Brexit, they will have to face the consequences.

MICHAEL CLIFF  
Wall Heath

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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# No profit in cleaning up oceans, so super-rich are not interested

IT really is a funny old world (in a sad way). We are sucking the oil out of the earth, we are destroying rain forests, we could blow up small countries with nuclear weapons and are destroying the planet with loss of the ozone.

We are destroying our oceans by depleting its fish stocks. There is even an individual who is spending billions to get man to Mars and is building a shuttle for the super rich to go on jollies in space.

Yet governments, companies, and su-

per-rich individuals cannot, or will not, clean up our oceans of the plastics which man put in there. If we can dredge and plunder our oceans for fish, gas and oil, we can - and should - remove the plastics that are killing our oceans and our planet.

The reason governments and the rich will not do this is purely because there is nothing in it for them. Why must everything be wrapped in plastic?!

PETE LOWE  
Brierley Hill

# Hospital was first class

I want to try and put a more positive side to the treatment I have received at Russells Hall Hospital because (I am sure I am not alone when I say) I have received first class treatment.

In fact, I am still astounded at how quickly I was dealt with. Visit GP, blood test, hospital visit for test and X-ray, doctor diagnosed problem, biopsy, diagnosis confirmed, drugs provided, specialist seen. All this took place between August 21 and September 13.

I am still reeling at the speed and efficiency of the treatment I received, so I would like to think that some positive comments alongside the negative can be reported, as we have so much bad news that a little good may be appreciated. Where would we be without these wonderful people who man our hospitals 24 hours a day? Thank you.

GP WILLETT  
Stourbridge

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# 8 Pop star Becky is forced to postpone tour

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, October 18, 2018

POP star and former Bewdley barmaid Becky Hill has been forced to cancel the remainder of her UK tour on doctor's orders after pulling out of her Thursday night show in Leeds last week.

It was a tumultuous week for Hill who performed outside Manchester's O2 Academy venue the previous Tuesday in a bid to ease the disappointment of fans after the gig was cancelled due to a burst pipe.

The former contestant on TV's The Voice, who was mentored by Jessie J, then had to call off her Leeds gig due to problems with her voice, which also meant cancellation of Friday's Birmingham O2 Institute gig and concerts in Nottingham, Bristol and London.

In a message to fans via Twitter, she said: "I've just left the specialist ENT clinic and I'm so gutted to say this but I'm having to postpone the rest of my tour. The doctor has put me on full vocal rest to recover."

But she did promise to reschedule the shows, adding: "These shows are 100 per cent being rescheduled so please hold on to your tickets and await further news in the next few days. I'm so, so sorry but I promise you the rescheduled dates are gonna be the best vocal performances ever."

The singer has appeared on a string of hit dance tracks since her breakthrough on The Voice in 2012. Her most recent hit is Back & Forth with MK and Jonas Blue.

## Ex-Albion director and E&S writer dies

FORMER West Bromwich Albion director and head of ITV Sport Jeff Farmer has died aged 79.

Born in West Bromwich, Mr Farmer was a non-executive director and PR consultant for the Baggies for seven years in the 2000s. He was also a former Express & Star journalist, and reported extensively on the Baggies in the 1960s and 70s.



The Duncan Edwards tribute dinner was held at the Copthorne Hotel, to mark 60 years since his death following the Munich air disaster



Relative Gordon Edwards at the dinner with former Wolves, Villa, Preston and Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty



Halesowen Town President Colin Brookes with daughter club chairman Karen Brookes



Steve Bull with the Duncan Edwards book written by Jim Cadman and Iain McCartney



Duncan's relatives with Manchester United representatives including former star player Nicky Butt, United's head youth coach



Manchester United apprentice Dermot Mee with coach Nicky Butt, representing Duncan's former club

# Stars join tribute to a legend

**FORMER players, friends and family came together to celebrate the life of Black Country football great Duncan Edwards at a tribute dinner.**

From his Dudley roots to his championship winning days with Manchester United as a member of the Busby Babes and England caps – the

event paid homage to his lasting legacy. Among the guests for the dinner at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill were former Wolves, Villa, Preston and Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty and West Bromwich Albion captain and Welsh International Graham Williams.

They were joined by Manchester United coach Nicky Butt, Wolves legend Steve Bull and Halesowen

Town Football Club president Colin Brookes, a former United apprentice.

Mr Docherty said: "This is a wonderful tribute to a wonderful footballer and most of all a wonderful man. He was the greatest player I played against and that was in an era of some fantastic footballers."

Mr Williams, who served in the army at the same time as Duncan, said: "He was a fantastic footballer

who just seemed so big and powerful. I was a confident player and frightened of no-one but I couldn't see how I could match up to him.

"This a wonderful tribute to him and as a West Brom man I hope the Black Country is truly proud of as they say today, 'one of our own'."

School friends were at the celebration dinner as well as some of his relatives. Jim Bradley, who attended

Priory Primary School with Duncan, said: "He was a great bloke who was never boastful but could easily have been because he was such an amazing footballer."

"Sadly, we never got to know how good he might have been as he was taken from us too soon but we'll never forget him."

A new book, Black Country Boy to Red Devil, pays homage to Edwards.

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# Satellite technology to identify water leaks

**WATER** company Severn Trent has invested in drone and satellite technology as it pledges to reduce leaks by 15 per cent by 2025.

It comes as MPs call for tougher targets for cutting leaks after figures showed a 'shocking' three billion litres are lost each day.

Water industry targets to reduce leakage by 15 per cent by 2025 are 'not ambitious enough', said the House of Commons Environment Committee.

Pressure on companies to act should be increased by bringing forward from 2050 to 2040 the goal of halving the amount of water lost, said the committee in a report.

The report also backed new powers for water companies to introduce compulsory metering, even though it could lead to 'significant' bill increases in some areas.

## Gushed

Earlier this year there was a huge flood in Wednesbury, on Leabrook North Road. Some 10 million litres of water gushed out of a pipe and spread over roads, gardens and into houses and nearby businesses after being damaged by contractors installing an electricity cable. One woman was rescued from a house and another man broke a wrist after falling down a hole.

Stuart Henry, for Severn Trent, said: "Over the last decade we've reduced leakage by 20 per cent and are looking to reduce it by a further 15 per cent in the five years to 2025."

"We have invested in drone and satellite technology to help us spot leaks and have announced multi-million pound plans to install new monitors and pressure devices in our pipes to help prevent bursts before they occur."



Rescue teams checking submerged cars during the Wednesbury floods

## Ambulance service uni link

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service is set to become the first University NHS Foundation Trust in the country.

A consultation will be held by the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust over the planned changes, which would only affect its name, to mark its partnership with the University of Wolverhampton.

The cost of implementation will be

'minimal' and an agreement will be signed to use the title 'university' in the trust name if the consultation is positive.

Consultation runs to October 26.

Trust chairman Sir Graham Meldrum said: "This is an exciting development that allows us to articulate our position in the ambulance sector going forward."

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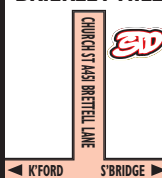
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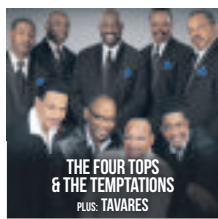
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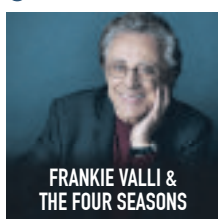
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# Wipers a window to trench humour

**The Wipers Times, Birmingham Rep**  
IT'S not the stiff upper lip, it is the ability to chortle in the face of danger that got the average Tommy through the horror of the trenches, suggests Ian Hislop and Nick Newman's play *The Wipers Times*.

It is based on the true story of a First World War comic newspaper produced on a battered printing press in Flanders by a couple of non-commissioned officers, plus a sergeant who had been a printer in civvy street, with poems and jokes contributed by soldiers. Hislop sees in the *Wipers Times* a similar irreverent brand of humour as that in his own publication, *Private Eye*, and on the TV show he co-captains, *Have I Got News For You*.

It is said that war is long periods of boredom punctuated by intense moments of action and terror – so the soldiers had plenty of time to take the mickey out of themselves, their commanding officers and their enemy. The German troops are described variously as the 'Hun', 'Fritz' or the 'Boche'.



**James Dutton in *The Wipers Times*** Photo: Kirsten McTernan

The story is presented on a sandbagged and barbed wired trench-like set, where the story of the newspaper's survival in the midst of war is punctuated with musical hall style skits based on the original jokes along with comic songs favoured by the soldiers.

There is a strong ensemble performance, though particular credit should go to James Dutton as editor Captain Roberts and George Kemp as his sub-editor Lieutenant Pearson. There were poignant moments but a sense of humour could not be defeated. It is a source of pride that whilst 'the Hun' sang a 'Hymn of Hate', the 'Tommies' responded with jokes about sausages.

The play has now moved to London's West End, being staged at the Arts Theatre until December 1.

Leon Burakowski



Back due to demand – *War Horse* is wowing audiences at Birmingham Hippodrome

# Unforgettable *War Horse* will gallop into your heart

**War Horse, Birmingham Hippodrome**

The National Theatre's acclaimed West End play, *War Horse*, has thundered back onto the stage at Birmingham Hippodrome. This epic tale of friendship and loss has consistently broken records since its debut in 2007 and was most adapted for the big screen by Steven Spielberg.

Set in a pastoral Britain, it sets the scene in an almost whimsical way. A young and impressionable Albert is gifted a headstrong foal with whom he forms an exceptional bond. This is all shattered, however, when the horse is later sold to the Cavalry and shipped to France during war's outbreak.

Based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, this rings true to many events that surrounded this terrible time. Indeed around eight million horses died as a direct result of the war, especially in the early stages such as the Battle of Marne in 1914 with real horse power not match for heavy artillery.

The life-sized horse puppets are clearly a

## THEATRE REVIEWS

**First World War special**

huge draw. The Handspring Puppet Company employs incredible skill in the creation of these props but it's the choreography that provides the magic.

Along with the fluidity of the mechanics, all three operators bring the animals to a living, breathing reality. One would be forgiven for forgetting this was a wooden shell adorned with cloth.

Other props were used sparingly and the interaction almost touched on the delicacy and intent of contemporary dance. Clever use of space and lighting provided an expansive backdrop of which this terrible war was fought. *War Horse* is an unforgettable story of a long lost innocence.

It continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until November 3.

Juliet Hounam

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# Weekend of top DJ and leading MC

Multi-million selling producer, artist and DJ, Sigala has announced a huge UK tour will celebrate the release of debut album Brighter Days by headlining at Birmingham's O2 Institute tomorrow night (Friday).

With the record featuring no less than six top 10 singles, fans will get the chance to witness an artist at the top of his game who has achieved so much success, yet remains unusually low key.

"I've made it my mission to stay behind the scenes and let the music do its thing while I live a normal life," he said.

"I've never once been noticed on the street, only at a Sigala concert, obviously. I'm a normal guy with a pretty normal upbringing and I like my privacy."

Then on Saturday, across the city at the O2 Academy, American rapper Rick Ross will aim to live up to his one-time MTV tag as the hottest MC on the scene.

He released his debut single, Hustlin' in 2006, then became the subject of a bidding war, receiving offers from Diddy's Bad Boy Entertainment and Irv Gotti's Murder Inc, before signing a multi-million dollar deal with Jay Z's Def Jam Records.

His first two albums, Port Of Miami and Trilla, both topped the US chart and a decade ago he founded the record label Maybach Music Group, on which he has released six studio albums with the most recent being Rather You Than Me last year.

Sir Cliff Richard returns with a new album and tour



## Cliff back on stage

Few entertainers have enjoyed a career as remarkable as Sir Cliff Richard's.

The evergreen singer has released 103 albums, 123 singles and has spent the equivalent of 20 years in the UK charts. It all began 60 years ago with the hit single Move It.

He was voted Britain's Ultimate Pop Star and will be celebrating his 60th anniversary in the music business on Saturday at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, with his tour 58-18=60th Tour.

The show comes 25 years after his first visit

to Symphony Hall and it will be Sir Cliff's fifth performance at the event.

Sir Cliff has a number of celebrity fans and BBC Radio 2's Ken Bruce has described him as a one-off: "To sustain any career for 60 years is amazing. To do it in the field of music is rare indeed and Cliff has achieved it with style and quality throughout."

Sir Cliff is simply happy to still be around: "I am so happy that I will be doing a tour to celebrate my 60th Anniversary in the music business."

"I cannot believe it is already 10 years since

my 50th Anniversary in 2008 - so much has happened, and I'm very grateful that fans have kept me busy. I am truly delighted to be performing the 58-18=60 Tour . . . I simply can't wait.

"When I started I was 17 and so in those days, the thought of being 60 - well, I don't think we thought we'd reach the age of 60 let alone still be recording."

The tour marks his return after 'years of hell' caused by false sex abuse claims and coincides with his new record, Rise Up, recorded in Miami

# Festive fun as trio follow star to Brum

Hugh Dennis, star of Outnumbered, Not Going Out and Mock The Week, stars in new festive comedy The Messiah, which is at Birmingham Rep from tonight (Thursday) until October 27, before it heads to London for a West End run.

It also stars opera singer Lesley Garrett and Coventry-born comedy actor John Marquez, best known for his role as PC Joe Penhale in hit ITV series, Doc Martin.

The action centres on a travelling theatre troupe of two actors and a singer who aim to masterfully enact the greatest story ever told. Maurice Rose, played by Dennis, is joined by the alarmingly unpredictable Ronald Bream RAC (Marquez), and the distinguished diva Mrs Doreen Small (Garrett), in a Christmas comedy created by Patrick Barlow, who is also directing, previously had a major West End hit with his affectionate revamp of The 39 Steps.

Dennis agreed to star because of his friendship with Barlow, saying: "Patrick is a very funny man. A very, very funny man. The Messiah is a kind of rewritten revival of a show he did with Jim Broadbent in 1983. I loved the script and I honestly think it's just great. It's about two middle aged men who are putting on a nativity play, and a lot of it's also about angst and loss and midlife crisis. It's a funny piece."

"It's a good team though and Lesley is great. She's lovely. She's very up for it. There's a lot of physical stuff in it. We all have to pretend to be riding camels."

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Singer and pianist Tom Odell



## Friends and neighbours inspire Tom's new songs

Fans will be showing Another Love for Tom Odell when his tour stops off at the O2 Academy in Birmingham on Sunday, where he can introduce his new album Jubilee Road.

It is the 27-year-old singer-songwriter's third album. Packed with

grandstanding melodies, Jubilee Road intertwines stories of the time Tom spent living in a house in a terraced street in East London.

Choosing to fictionalise the address to preserve his former neighbours' privacy, the listener is drawn into affecting real-life dramas, from gamblers in the betting shop (Queen Of Diamonds) to the bitter-sweet celebration of Wedding Day.

Tom said: "The lyrics are inspired by the lives of the friends I made while living there. I recorded most of the songs in the living room of the house. If I listen back closely, I can still hear the sound of the old man's television shows coming through the walls from next door, kids from the house opposite playing football in the street and my girlfriend's footsteps on the wooden floorboards."

## It's a story every time from Hootie's country star

Multi-platinum artist Darius Rucker first found fame as the lead singer and rhythm guitarist of rock band Hootie & the Blowfish but has since re-introduced himself to the world as a country singer, with massive success in America.

He has released four consecutive albums to top the Billboard Country albums chart and has attracted a whole new legion of fans.

The singer and songwriter from South Carolina will play a rare UK solo gig at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Sunday and the show has already sold out.

Darius said: "As a kid, I was into Al Green, Gladys Knight and the Pips but as I got older I started listening to all sorts of music, including country. Whenever I sing any of those genres,

I'm singing about what the music makes me feel. Now, when I write country songs, there's a difference because a country audience wants a story every time."

In 2014 Rucker won his third Grammy award for best solo country performance for his four times platinum selling cover of Old Crow Medicine Show's Wagon Wheel off his album, True Believers.

Rucker's first two country albums, Learn To Live and Charleston, SC 1966 produced five no1 hits stateside including Come Back Song, This, Alright, It Won't Be Like This For Long and Don't Think I Don't Think About It. Fourth album Southern Style features country chart-topper Homegrown Honey, and his latest album is When Was The Last Time.



Darius Rucker

## Bleak and brutal but Editors fans still smiling

Birmingham rockers Editors will return for a home city headline concert when they line-up at the O2 Academy tomorrow (Friday) in support of their new album Violence. Frontman Tom Smith has used the word 'brutal' to describe the album.

Editors are six albums into their career, having broken through in 2005 with The Back Room before topping the chart with their second and third albums, An End Has A Start and In This Light And On This Evening. They have undergone a number of line-up changes, most notably with the departure in 2012 of guitarist Chris Urbanowicz, but Tom says they still find ways to reinvent themselves.

"When you're doing something creative, if you feel like you're repeating yourself, that's the enemy. If you feel like you're just rehashing old ideas, it gets stale. It's the complete opposite of what being creative should be.

"People often comment on the darkness or bleakness. But for the people that like the band, there are chinks of light and hope in these songs. Maybe our shows are group therapy sessions but people aren't crying, there's a lot of smiles."

## Brush shoulders with stars at Club Tropicana

X Factor winner and star of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Joe McElerry, will lead the cast in new 1980s musical Club Tropicana, which arrives on tour at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next year.

Packed with pop classics including Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Take On Me, Just Can't Get Enough and The Look of Love, the feel-good show will celebrate the age when hair was big, shoulders were padded and mobile phones were like bricks. Joining Joe will be Neil McDermott (Ryan Malloy in EastEnders), Kate Robbins (from TV's Dinnerladies), and former Sugababe Amelle Berrabah making her musical theatre debut.

It is set at the Club Tropicana Hotel – the 1980s answer to Love Island – where the drinks are free and everyone seeks a tan-tastic time. When a bride and groom get cold feet, they each decide to jet off to sunnier climes to ponder their prospective nuptials but end up at the same hotel. Tickets are on sale for Club Tropicana The Musical at grandtheatre.co.uk or by calling the box office on 01902 429212.

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The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and

8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

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The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



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# AT YOUR LEISURE

## CHOICE



Helen Skelton

**Blue Peter: Big 60th Birthday (BBC2, 4.30pm)**  
Sixty years on from the programme's very first episode, past presenters return to celebrate the show's history. Lindsey Russell attempts to fly a hot air balloon in the Arctic Circle, Radzi Chinyanganya boards an aircraft carrier to create a massive birthday message and the presenters give Ed Sheeran a very special surprise. Plus, music by Jonas Blue, HRVY, the Vamps and Sophie Ellis-Bextor.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Youth Olympics Highlights. Action from the multi-sports competition in Buenos Aires, Argentina. **2.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.25** Invictus Games 2018. **6.00** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous sitcom actors take part in the general knowledge quiz, in which they try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. The contestants are Nerys Hughes, Victor McGuire, Shobu Kapoor, Abdullah Azizi, Guy Siner, Sue Hodge, Perry Benson and Jake Canuso. **6.45** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present week five of the dancing competition, with the 12 remaining couples taking to the floor to impress the judges and the viewers at home. Bruno Tonioli takes a break from the panel this week, so Shirley Ballas, Darcy Bussell and Craig Revel Horwood are joined by Alfonso Ribeiro, star of The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and 2014 winner of the show's US counterpart Dancing with the Stars. **8.35** **Casualty.** Ciara wakes up on the floor surrounded by smashed glass, and Joel insists on taking her to the ED. Once alone, Ciara apologises to Dylan for the awkwardness of the situation, but as she is discharged she collapses and admits it could be her liver. With the nursing team understaffed, Charlie has to call Duffy in – even though she has recently undertaken a night shift. **9.25** **Killing Eve.** A female assassin is taken into custody in Russia, and Eve and Carolyn head out to Moscow to negotiate access. **10.10** **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents the latest Premier League highlights, including Chelsea v Manchester United at Stamford Bridge. **12.00** The NFL Show. **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.45** Top Class. (R) **7.15** All Over the Place: Europe. (R) **7.45** Wild & Weird. **8.00** Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom. (R) **8.30** Got What It Takes? **9.00** Elephant Diaries. (R) **9.30** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.00** Talk to the Animals. (R) **11.00** Empire of the Desert Ants. Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Incredible Spice Men. (R) **12.30** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. **1.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.30** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **2.50** Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. (R) **3.50** John Noakes: TV Hero. (R) **4.30** Blue Peter: Big 60th Birthday. (R) **5.30** A House Through Time. (R) **6.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring puts the defence of the realm before personal pride, resulting in problems. Classic comedy with Home Guard, starring Arthur Lowe. (R) **7.00** **Mediterranean with Simon Reeve.** Simon explores Cyprus, Lebanon, Israel and Gaza, going on patrol with UN peacekeepers, discovering the roots of Christianity and crossing the world's most heavily fortified borders. (R) **8.00** **Elizabeth I's Secret Agents.** Documentary examining the network of spymasters and secret agents that helped protect Elizabeth I from assassination, terror and treason for more than 40 years. (R) **9.00** **Black Hollywood: "They've Gotta Have Us".** The rise of a new generation of black film-makers in the 1990s, as well as the emergence of movie stars like Eddie Murphy, Will Smith and Denzel Washington. **10.00** **QI XL.** Sandi Toksvig hosts an extended version of the quiz in which points are awarded for interesting answers, with Aisling Bea, Lee Mack, Jason Manford and Alan Davies. **10.45** **Snowfall.** Franklin's dealers have been straying into a rival Mexican gang's territory, and Kevin is not satisfied with his failure to strike back against his new rivals. **11.30** **Later Weekend with Jools Holland.** Paul Weller performs a track from his recent album True Meanings and there are also performances by Sigrid, Jacob Banks, Villagers and Joe Bonamassa. **12.35** **Film:** Half of a Yellow Sun. (2013) **2.20** Trust. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: ToonMarty. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Robozuna. **9.05** Scrambled!: Mighty Magiswords! (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.40** The X Factor. (R) **12.45** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** ITV Racing Live from Ascot. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cuman present coverage of British Champions Day, headlined by the 3.15 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes. Plus, races at 1.25, 2.00, 2.40, 3.50 and 4.30. **5.00** ITV News: Weather. **5.10** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.25** You've Been Framed! Gold. (R) **5.55** **Film:** Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1. (2010) The teenage wizard and his friends search for the magical artefacts that will allow them to destroy the evil Voldemort. Fantasy adventure, with Daniel Radcliffe and Ralph Fiennes. **8.25** **The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary hosts the first of the live shows. The remaining 16 acts will perform to impress judges Simon Cowell, Louis Tomlinson, Robbie Williams and Ayda Williams – as well as the viewing public at home. This year, Simon will be coaching the Girls, Louis has the Boys, Robbie will take on the Groups and Ayda has the Overs. **10.35** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined in the famous green room by guests Eric Idle, Katherine Jenkins, Nish Kumar and Chris O'Dowd. **11.35** **ITV News:** Weather. **11.55** **Play to the Whistle.** Alan Shearer, James Anderson and Jimmy Carr join team captains Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh for the sports-based comedy panel show, hosted by Holly Willoughby. (R) **12.55** **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Long Lost Family. Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell try to reunite a mother and daughter after almost 50 years apart, and help a father-of-three from Kilmarock track down his estranged Croatian dad. (R) **3.50** **ITV** Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.40** Yorkshire Marathon. **7.05** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.30** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** Heineken Champions Cup Rugby: The Big Tackle. **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Live Heineken Champions Cup Rugby: Munster v Gloucester (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.10** Car SOS. (R) **4.05** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** The People's Vet. **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **6.55** **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Practice 3 Live.** Tom Clarkson presents coverage from the 18th round of the season at Circuit of the Americas in Texas, as drivers conclude their preparations ahead of the qualifying session. **8.30** **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Qualifying Live.** Coverage of the qualifying sessions (Start-time 10.00pm), as the drivers contest starting grid positions at Circuit of the Americas in Texas, ahead of the 18th round of the season. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton continued his dominance of this event last year, qualifying on pole position and winning the race ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel. Steve Jones presents, with analysis from David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan. **11.35** **Film: Insidious: Chapter 3.** (2015) A gifted psychic uses her powers to contact the dead to help a girl who has been targeted by a supernatural entity. Horror prequel, starring Dermot Mulroney and Stefanie Scott. **1.25** **Experimental.** Tim Shaw builds a giant catapult to fire Buddy out of and a propelled swivel chair. The duo also head to Georgia to carry out a dangerous stunt testing the science of acceleration. (R) **2.20** **Hollyoaks.** Ornibus. Goldie offers to help Jesse plan a party for Glenn's birthday now he is out of hospital, and Grace finally puts her plan into action to manipulate Jay into killing Glenn. (R) **4.30** **Grand Designs New Zealand.** A couple plan to build a retirement home in the tree canopy on the island of Waiheke, but the land they have purchased for the project proves hard to reach. (R) **5.25** Buy It Now. Tim showcases a tool to minimise the clean-up after DIY. James has an innovative product for the wine cabinet and Kay and Johanna have homemade gifts for kids. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Dogs Make you Laugh Out Loud 4. (R) **11.00** The Wonderful World of Puppies. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.55** **Film:** Big Daddy. (1999) Comedy, starring Adam Sandler. **3.55** Access. **4.00** **Film:** Big Daddy. (1999) Concluded. **4.50** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **5.50** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **6.35** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away: Final Demand.** Documentary giving an insight into cash-strapped Britain from the perspectives of debtors, creditors and those who collect the payments, including High Court enforcement bailiffs and repossession teams. The series follows each case as it unfolds, recording the thoughts and feelings on both sides, the process of repossession and the impact it has on all involved. (R) **7.35** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Sheriff Paul Bohill tackles the case of a small debt owed by ex-footballer Neil "Razor" Ruddock to a kennel owner, before being forced to evict a school dinner lady in south London. Meanwhile, in the north of England enforcement agent Stewart MacCracken heads out with trainee Iain Taylor to confront a Yorkshire builder they need to get payment from at his home, while a reptile shop owner hit by online competitors urgently needs to pay a debt for the feed company he relies on to keep his animals alive. (R) **8.30** **5 News Weekend.** **8.35** **Film: Beaches.** (1988) Brash child performer CC and rich girl Hillary become unlikely friends when they first meet at 11 years old. Years later they are still close, but Hillary, who is now a successful lawyer, is stricken with a terminal illness. CC goes to visit her and together they reflect on the highs and lows of their long, volatile relationship. Drama, starring Bette Midler, Barbara Hershey, John Heard and Mayim Bialik. **9.35** **5 News Update.** **9.40** **Film: Beaches.** (1988) Concluded. **11.05** **Bette Midler: By Her Friends.** (R) **12.00** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. **2.50** **Film:** Eat Pray Love. (2010) **5.00** Access.

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Natural World: Beavers Behaving Badly **8.00** Life Story **9.00** 54 Hours: The Gladbek Hostage Crisis **10.30** There She Goes **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1986 **11.30** Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy **12.30** **Film:** Hello Quo (2012) **1.50** Natural World: Beavers Behaving Badly **2.50** The Culture Show: Wars of the Heart **3.20** Close **ITV2**  
**11.45** **Film:** License to Wed (2007) **12.45** FYI Daily **12.50** **Film:** License to Wed (2007) **1.30** The X Factor **2.35** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **4.40** **Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** **Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **6.55** **Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** **Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.15** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.45** Don't Hate the Playaz **2.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** **ITV2** Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**2.40** A Touch of Frost **4.55** Lewis **7.00** Midsummer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Inspector Morse **1.10** On the Buses **2.05** **ITV3** Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**  
**11.40** Pawn Stars **12.35** The Big Fish Off **1.40** The Motorbike Show **2.45** **Film:** Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50** **Film:** Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **4.55** **Film:** Chisum (1970) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** **Film:** Chisum (1970) **7.10** **Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** **Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **9.00** **Film:** Unknown (2011) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.05** **Film:** Unknown (2011) **11.15** **Film:** Se7en (1995) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** **Film:** Se7en (1995) **1.50** The Americans **2.45** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**1.00** The Great British Bake Off **2.20** **Film:** Rio 2 (2014) **4.20** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** X-Men: First Class (2011) **11.35** Gogglebox **1.40** Celebs Go Dating **4.30** Don't Tell the Bride **5.25** Rude(ish) Tube **Film4**  
**11.00** A Monster in Paris (2011) **12.50** Mirror Mirror (2012) **3.00** Dr Doolittle (1998) **4.45** Sister Act (1992) **6.50** Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993) **9.00** Shooter (2007) **11.25** Chain Reaction (1996) **1.30** American Mary (2012) **3.40** Close

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## CHOICE



Jenna Coleman

**The Cry (BBC1, 9pm)**  
Joanna and Alistair try to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the tragic events, but they cannot avoid drifting further and further apart. An unexpected delivery brings long-buried memories flooding back for Joanna, but the revelation calls everything they thought they knew into question as the truth about their child's disappearance finally emerges. Jenna Coleman, Ewen Leslie, Asher Keddie, Alex Dimitriades, Sophie Kennedy Clark, Markella Kavenagh and Shareena Clanton star.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **8.30** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.40** Points of View. **2.55** Songs of Praise. **3.30** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.30** Invictus Games 2018. **5.30** BBC News. **5.45** Regional Programme. **5.55** Countryfile.

**6.55** **Doctor Who.** The Doctor and her companions meet black civil rights campaigner Rosa Parks in 1950s Alabama, and discover a plot to change the course of history. Guest starring Vinette Robinson.

**7.45** **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman introduce last night's results, and two more couples face a dance off. With guest judge Alfonso Ribeiro and a performance from Paloma Faith.

**8.30** **Still Open All Hours.** Granville starts making his own sausages. Gasric turns his mini into a self-driving car, and Eric and Cyril take up rock climbing – but Kath insists they do their training at home.

**9.00** **The Cry.** Joanna and Alistair drift further apart as they try to rebuild their lives, while an unexpected delivery brings back long-buried memories that change everything. Last in the series.

**10.00** BBC News.

**10.20** Regional Programme.

**10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring highlights of the one game of the day – Everton v Crystal Palace at Goodison Park. The Toffees recruited manager Marco Silva this summer after a disappointing 2017/18 campaign, and spent £35m to prise Brazilian forward Richarlison away from Watford, but their early-season form has been inconsistent. Crystal Palace, meanwhile, will have once again been hoping for a moment of magic from winger Wilfried Zaha.

**11.15** **The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

**11.50** **The Apprentice.** (R)

**12.50** **The Apprentice: You're Fired.** (R)

**1.20** **Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.25** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.35** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.30** Sweet's Made Simple. (R) **1.00** Honey Badgers: Masters of Mayhem – Natural World. (R) **2.00** NFL Live. Los Angeles Chargers v Tennessee Titans (Kick-off 2.30pm). **5.45** Radio 1 Teen Awards 2018.

**7.00** **The Real T. Rex with Chris Packham.** Chris Packham embarks on a global journey to discover the truth about the Tyrannosaurus rex, which has endured centuries of scientific inaccuracy and Hollywood misrepresentation. The naturalist uses new studies into dinosaur skin, teeth and muscles, as well as groundbreaking insights into its behaviour to create the most accurate CGI representation of the dinosaur ever produced. To help, Chris speaks to experts in birds, biomechanics and alligators, and has access to one of the most complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeletons in existence. (R)

**8.00** **Mediterranean with Simon Reeve.** Simon travels through Libya, visiting areas of the country devastated by recent fighting, and discovers a mountain fortress in Tunisia before crossing the sea to Sicily.

**9.00** **Last Chance Lawyer New York City.** Howard represents a man accused of murdering children, but Marie and Lena both have misgivings about him taking on such a high profile and controversial case.

**9.45** **Louis Theroux: Talking to Anorexia.** The reporter meets patients at two of London's largest eating disorder facilities, following them through a daily routine of scheduled eating, weigh-ins and group therapy. (R)

**10.45** **Live at the Apollo.** Dane Baptiste presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Desiree Burch and Chris McCausland. (R)

**11.30** **10 Rillington Place.** (1971) Fact-based thriller telling the story of murderous landlord John Christie. Starring Richard Attenborough and John Hurt.

**1.20** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Robozuna. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Mighty Magiswords! (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Emmerdale 1918. (R) **9.55** Love Your Home and Garden. (R) **10.50** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.20** Countrywise. (R) **11.50** The Big Adventure. (R) **12.45** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** The X Factor. (R) **3.05** Back to Mine. **3.30** Celebrity Catchphrase. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **6.30** ITV News: Weather.

**6.45** **Regional Programme:** Weather.

**7.00** **The Chase Celebrity Special.** Bradley Walsh presents as four celebrity contestants Andi Osho, Mark Ramprakash, Alex Beresford and Jane Moore compete in a head-to-head against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

**8.00** **The X Factor.** The live shows continue, with the 16 acts selected to go through performing to impress judges Simon Cowell, Louis Tomlinson, Robbie Williams and Ayda Williams.

**9.00** **Butterfly.** Maxine attempts to mutilate herself, convincing her parents that she must be allowed to live as a girl. However, her grandmother is appalled by the development.

**10.00** ITV News: Weather.

**10.20** **Weather from Hell: Caught on Camera.** Documentary looking at extreme weather, including footage of honeymooning Brits caught up in a major storm, and firefighters faced with a freak weather phenomenon. (R)

**11.15** **Gordon, Gino and Fred: Road Trip.** Gordon Ramsay, Gino D'Acampo and Fred Sirieix travel across France in search of ingredients for an oyster festival. (R)

**12.15** Strangers. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.05** Motorsport: Caterham. **6.35** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Jamie Cooks Italy. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Film: Rango. (2011) Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp. **3.10** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.25** Grand Designs. (R) **5.30** Channel 4 News.

**6.00** **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live Build Up.** Steve Jones, David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan provide all the context and intrigue ahead of the 18th race of the season.

**6.40** **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live.** Steve Jones presents coverage of the 18th race of the season (Start-time 7.10pm), held at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. Lewis Hamilton has dominated this race over the years, winning five of the six Grands Prix to be held in Texas, as well as emerging victorious from the last-ever F1 race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway back in 2007. With analysis by David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan.

**9.15** **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live Reaction.** Steve Jones, David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan analyse this evening's race, which served as the 18th round of the season.

**10.15** **Film: R.I.P.D.** (2013) A cop killed in the line of duty is recruited by a ghostly police force assigned to battle evil spirits. Fantasy adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Jeff Bridges.

**12.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Gordon Ramsay clashes with the owner of Le Bistro in Florida. (R) **1.05** The Last Leg. Comic review of the past seven days. (R) **2.00** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Including an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R) **2.55** Inside Out Homes. Zac Monro replaces a mock Surrey mansion with a high performance prefab house. (R) **3.50** Homes by the Sea. Charlie Luxton visits some of Britain's best coastal properties. (R) **4.50** Grand Designs New Zealand. A composer builds a home with a recording studio and performance stage. Last in the series. **5.45** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.50** Countdown. Clive Anderson is in Dictionary Corner. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **6.30** Luo Bao Bei. (R) **6.40** Dobby Dragon. (R) **6.50** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Rusty Rivets. (R) **7.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **8.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.30** Nella the Princess Knight. **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. **9.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.35** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.50** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.00** SimplyHealth Great South Run. **12.00** Friends. (R) **12.30** Friends. (R) **1.00** Friends. (R) **1.30** Friends. (R) **2.00** Friends. (R) **2.30** Friends. (R) **3.00** Friends. (R) **3.30** Friends. (R) **4.00** Friends. (R) **4.25** Friends. (R) **4.55** Film: The Goonies. (1985) Children's adventure, starring Sean Astin. **5.55** 5 News Update.

**6.00** **Film: The Goonies.** (1985) Concluded.

**7.00** **Britain's Favourite Biscuit.** Celebrities including Sally Lindsay and Joe Swash reveal their verdict on the best biscuit before the results of a top 20 survey of the nation's favourite is revealed. There is also opportunity to see what copes best in a cuppa as cookies are put through their paces in the dunk test. (R)

**8.00** **Ice Road Truckers.** Both teams are under pressure as they face one of the shortest seasons on record. Art has to fight to get back on the road after crashing into a snowbank.

**8.55** **5 News Weekend.**

**9.00** **The Pharaoh in the Suburb: Uncovered.** The story of how fragments of a 36-foot ancient statue depicting the pharaoh Psamtik were discovered in a working class suburb of Cairo. Psamtik's 54-year reign from 664BC had been previously dismissed as a period of decline for Egypt, but the high quality of this statue has led to a reassessment of his rule. The programme reveals how he defended his country from two invasions and may have had a cultural influence on the ancient Greeks.

**10.00** **Big Brother.**

**11.35** **TV's Funniest Ever Sketches: Comedy Gold.** (R)

**1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Paddington Station 24/7: 48 Hour Meltdown. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways **8.00** James May's Cars of the People **9.00** Royal Opera House: Lessons in Love and Violence **10.35** Feud: Bette and Joan **12.20** Art of France **1.20** Cornwall's Native Poet: Charles Causley **2.20** James May's Cars of the People **3.20** Close

**ITV2**

**12.05** Celebrity Catchphrase **1.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.15** Film: Happy Feet Two (2011) **3.30** FYI Daily **3.35** Film: Happy Feet Two (2011) **4.10** Film: Casper (1995) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: Casper (1995) **6.10** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) **10.00** Family Guy **11.25** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **12.50** The Weekender: Boat Party **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**11.25** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.20** Film: Columbus: The Most Crucial Game (1972) **5.00** Foyles War **9.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **11.20** Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **1.35** Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans **2.25** Road to Avonlea **4.10** Murder, She Wrote **5.00** Judge Judy **5.25** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**

**12.40** Film: The Alamo (1960) **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25** Film: The Alamo (1960) **3.55** Film: Chisum (1970) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00** Film: Chisum (1970) **6.10** Made in Britain **7.15** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **9.00** Film: RoboCop (1987) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: RoboCop (1987) **11.10** Film: Total Recall (1990) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Total Recall (1990) **1.25** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**1.25** The Big Bang Theory **4.50** Film: Father of the Bride (1991) **6.55** Film: Home Alone (1990) **9.00** Celebs Go Dating **10.00** Club Rep Wars **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** First Dates **1.05** Celebs Go Dating **2.10** Club Rep Wars **3.05** Rude Tube **3.30** Hollyoaks

**Film4**

**11.00** Master of the World (1961) **1.05** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **2.45** Turner & Hooch (1989) **4.50** Carry On Regardless (1961) **6.35** The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011) **9.00** Escape Plan (2013) **11.15** Lovelace (2013)

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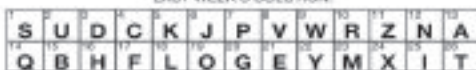
No.502

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

1. An entertaining job for a girl who likes travel (3-7)
7. To be paid nothing to fly (5)
8. Crooked dealing straightened out (7)
10. Put on grave attire? (8)
11. Unchanging instruction written in haste to printers (4)
13. Cry of the strike (6)
15. It stands still and marks time (6)
17. Cut off a weed (4)
18. Postal packet that goes overseas (4-4)
21. He serves various changes (7)
22. Determined to fight (3-3)
23. Woman who has no-one to mow her lawn? (5,5)

#### Down

1. Somehow raise a sign on high (5)
2. A dodger to be considered (8)
3. Pop a question that's somewhat obscure (6)
4. A child of two (4)
5. Private study (7)
6. Solemn character becomes less reckless on a fateful day (10)
9. The tide at noon makes a noise (10)
12. Carefully-examined any leads broken (8)
14. Make a successful come-back as an upholsterer? (7)
16. It's in one's bones to spoil a fight (5)
19. A sign that your car's not working? (2,3)
20. Fiddlestick! (4)



### Quick Clues:

#### Across

1. Witticism (10)
7. Redden (5)
8. Confound (7)
10. Shy (5)
11. Measure (4)
13. In words (5)
15. Most certain (5)
17. Chief (4)
18. Keep (5)
21. Learned (7)
22. Deduce (5)
23. Plague (10)

#### Down

1. Teams (5)
2. Airy (6)
3. Transgressor (5)
4. Not any (4)
5. Alloy (7)
6. Shorten (10)
9. True love (10)
12. Intergate (6)
14. Hermit (7)
16. Trial (5)
19. Prunder (5)
20. Inventory (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

6	7	1	8	9	2	4	3	5
4	9	8	7	2	3	1	5	6
5	0	2	1	4	6	7	9	3
7	4	8	1	9	5	6	3	2
6	1	8	4	3	5	6	7	2
5	0	2	8	6	7	9	1	4
1	3	4	9	6	2	5	8	7
8	6	7	2	5	1	4	3	9
2	5	9	6	7	4	8	3	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Shilton; 7 Robot; 9 Pod; 10 Red Indian; 12 Fingerprint; 15 Joined leave; 17 In arrears; 18 Glee; 21 Henna; 22 Epitaph.  
Down: 1 Blood; 2 Elk; 3 Dome; 4 Wonderful; 5 Hoanna; 6 Flares; 11 Signoria; 13 Gadget; 14 Bouncer; 16 Tempo; 18 Ripe; 20 Sky.  
QUICK - Across: 6 Liberal; 7 Guit; 9 Cow; 10 Stretcher; 12 Deliverance; 15 Story-teller; 17 Provender; 19 Dry; 21 Death; 22 Aspersa.  
Down: 1 Pilot; 2 Bae; 3 Vase; 4 Purchaser; 5 Licence; 8 Pavelet; 11 Depravity; 13 Infant; 14 Started; 16 Gross; 18 Elze; 20 Vet.

## Quiz

1. In Greek mythology, who was rejected by Narcissus and pined away, leaving only her voice?
2. Edda is the name given to two collections of early literature from which country?
3. What is a jota?
4. What is the smallest territorial subdivision in Christian church administration?
5. With whom did Lord Alfred Douglas have a scandalous affair?
6. Who manufactured a typewriter and a rifle that bear his name?
7. Which animal's head did the Egyptian goddess Sekhmet have?
8. On which lake is the port of Milwaukee?
9. What is commemorated in the Jewish festival of Purim?
10. Who were voted Best British group at the 2002 Brit Awards?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Brazilian; 2 Afghanistan; 3 The Star Chamber; 4 Jim Dale; 5 Pronouns; 6 Orang-utan; 7 Brigitte Bardot; 8 Pressure; 9 Androcles; 10 Basse Strait.

Niner: BOULEVARD

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5763  
1258  
49681

gives a flower,  
gives a second flower,  
gives a third flower.



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local service call:

0121 3690311  
07939 503905



## Fencing

### Fencing & Gates

All Garden Work Undertaken

- Slabbing • Block Paving
- Tree Felling • Turfing
- Garden Clearance

NO JOB TOO SMALL

Manufacturers of all Concrete  
Products eg. Concrete Posts,  
Gravel Boards

All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken  
Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)

Call Steve on  
01384 242891 or 07970 300586

## Mot's

**MOT** AIR CON  
SERVICE  
AVAILABLE

£27.99 with this advert  
FREE RE-TEST

Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,  
(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ

0121 559 6001 MOT



### Local Specialists



## Property Maintenance

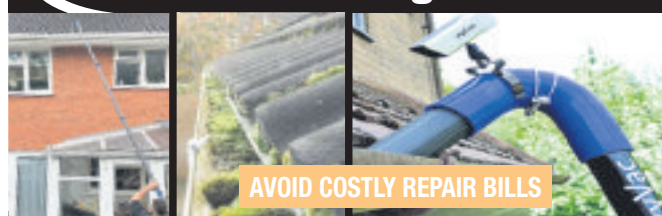
### K S SERVICES

All types of General Repairs  
to your home and garden  
Also interior and exterior  
decorating

Local Friendly Service  
0121 532 4861  
No Job Too Small

## Gutter Cleaning

### Gutter Cleaning Services



AVOID COSTLY REPAIR BILLS

Are they blocked?  
Full of dirt, leaves & moss?  
Are they over flowing when it rains?  
Repairs Undertaken  
NO MESS NO RISK NO FUSS

£40  
per  
property

Call 07738 616 075

## Upholstery

### JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES

Specialists in  
Re-upholstery, Repairs and  
Antiques  
CONTRACT & DOMESTIC  
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FREE ESTIMATES  
Choice of patterns  
Quality Workmanship

Blackheath  
0121 561 3977 daytime  
or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm

To advertise your business and reach more than 41,000 potential customers...

Call us on:  
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Post to: Advertisement Department, Halesowen Chronicle,  
Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Olbury B69 2DG



# Local Specialists



## Gardening



- Tree Surgeon Specialist • Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
- Hedges Pruned/Shaped • Stump Grinding/Root Removal
- Fencing • Turfing • Concreting • Driveways & Patios
- Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation quotation

**WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK**  
**01384 213644 or**  
**07733 226568**

AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor,  
 N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million)  
 All staff C.R.B. Certified



**LINDOPS LANDSCAPES**  
 All Landscape Work Undertaken  
 No Job Too Small or Too Big  
**FREE QUOTATIONS**  
 All aspects of Tree Surgery,  
 Block Paving, Fencing, etc  
 Est. 25 Years  
 Ex. Botanical Gardener  
**0121-421 2858**  
**07706 - 747960**

## R.A. GARDEN SERVICES

**Established 24 years**  
**Gardening & Landscaping Services**  
 Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting  
 • Lawn Mowing • Fencing & Slabbing  
 • Low Maintenance Landscaping • Gardens Cleared  
**FULLY INSURED • OAP DISCOUNTS**  
**FOR FREE QUOTE CALL:**  
**07970 876 638 • 01384 569 143**  
**www.ragardenservices.net**

## R & S Gardens

- All garden work undertaken
- Hedges and lawns cut
- General tidy and rubbish removed
- Garden landscaping and fencing work

Telephone: 07851 323303

## Local Specialists



## Plastering

## C.A. Plastering

For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.  
**No job too small 07538 718264**

## DH PLASTERERS

FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs to complete rooms  
**GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES**  
**0121 422 8594 or 07985 548466**

## Local Specialists



## Plumbing

## HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING

(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)  
**All installations and repairs**  
**Supply and fit or fit only**  
 TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER  
 No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes  
**Tel: Neil 07968 786449 - 0121-602 6776**  
**www.household-plumbing.co.uk**

## Plumbing & Heating

## P.S. Heating & Plumbing

Combi Boiler change from **£950**  
 Specialists in Baxi / Baxi / Worcester Bosch / Vaillant Boilers plus many more  
**SPECIAL OFFERS ON FULL HEATING SYSTEMS**  
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 Fully Insured up to £2 million

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PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER  
 Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters,  
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## roofing

## A & L ROOFLINE SERVICES



## Specialists in Flat Roofs

UPVC Facias & Guttering  
 All Repairs Undertaken  
 Dry verge units fitted

**Call Lee on 07495 480511**

*Free Quotes and we will beat any like for like quote*

## ALL WEATHER ROOFING

Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding  
**FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE**

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**NO CALL OUT CHARGE**

Mobile Number: 07947 839451

allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk

allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

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*One of the Leading Roofing Companies*  
**No Job too Small, No Job too Big**

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15
- SPECIAL OFFERS** on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting
- FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE**

**WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE**

**SPECIAL OFFER on EPDM Rubberised Roofing**



**Home: 01384 872276**

**Mobile: 07584 081228**

## ELITE PLASTICS

- Fascias • Sofits • Dry Verge
- Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair
- Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

**For A Free Quote call**  
**01384 468831 / 07985 575865**  
**www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk**

## Skip Hire

## MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE

**Save £££s**

All size skips and all areas covered  
 Same day delivery faster than  
 A phone call!!!

Open 7 days a week **SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE**  
**07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56**



## Tiling

## I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.

Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.

**FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE**

Quality workmanship at competitive prices.

Fully insured. Portfolio available.

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If an ad  
 is wrong,  
 the ASA  
 is here to  
 put it right.

ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority



## Oven Cleaning

For a friendly local independent oven cleaning service  
**CLEANOVEN**

We clean all types of domestic ovens, cookers, traditional stoves, hobs, extractors and microwaves

*Call us for a FREE quote*

**Tel: 01384 393168**

**Mobile Anytime: 07713 163060**

## Rubbish Removal

**ROB'S RUBBISH**

EST. SINCE 1992

**A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 7 DAYS**

Small Jobs NO PROBLEM

We load, No Skips, Free Estimates

Garden, Household, Shed, Garage, Fridges, White Goods,

House Clearances, Furniture

**0121 500 6033**

**07938 207122**



**To advertise your business and reach more than 41,000 potential customers...**

**1**

Call us on...  
**01902 319590**

**2**

E-mail us at...  
**mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk**

**3**

Post to...  
**Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB**



## Index

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- 3 Home & Services
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- 6 Property
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- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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For items up to **£250**

**VISIT:**

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Simply press the free ad icon.  
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.  
Private advertisers only.

## Place a paid for advert

**By Phone 01902 317878**

8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.  
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

**Online**  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

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At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
advertisement or also before 3.00pm  
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

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(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent  
family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794  
[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

## 1 Family

### Elderly & Disabled

**WORLD OF MOBILITY**  
Stourbridge's longest established  
Family Run Mobility Store  
Bretell Lane, Ambleside,  
Stourbridge DY8 4BS. Open Mon-Sat.  
01384 378252

**DUAL CONTROL** Reclining chair  
in very good condition, used about  
four times, space needed £100.  
01384 400797.

**ELECTRIC ARMCHAIR** rise and  
recline, fabric, excellent condition,  
cost £800, sell £100. 07299 664451.

**SHOPRIDER SOVEREIGN** mobility  
scooter, immaculate condition, good  
reason for sale, £400 ono.  
01384 288496.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** recondi-  
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-  
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

## 2 Leisure Time

### Bikes

**MOUNTAIN BIKES** Girls Python  
Rock JR, pink, Boys Corro, front/  
back disc brakes, green and white,  
immaculate, serviced at Fred Wil-  
liams, £85 each ono 07593 597240.

**Caravans/ Motorhomes**  
**A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW**  
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym  
Par 3, golf, bowls, why go further?  
[www.cbcpark.co.uk](http://www.cbcpark.co.uk) 01588 63453.

**STATIC CARAVAN 35 x 12**  
**LLANBRYNMAIR**

With large decking, two fishing  
pools. 20 mins to the coast.  
Ground rent included for 2019.  
**£8,950.**  
**07555 303350.**

**STERLING 460 2 berth** end wash-  
room, 98 separate shower remov-  
able carpets, very clean inside and  
out. £1,650. 07717 090817.

### what's on

### Book Fair

**BOOK FAIR** Kinvor Community  
Centre, DY7 6ER, inc postcards.  
Sunday 21st October and 18th  
Nov. Next Antique Fair 4th Nov.  
Est 1979. Waverley. Refreshments  
available. 0121 550 4381.

**BUY LOCAL  
SELL LOCAL**  
01902 317878

**ClassifiedAds**

## 3 Home & Services

### Collectables & Memorabilia

**WANTED OLD VIOLIN**  
Must have 14in main body.  
Needs to be 100 plus years old.  
Any condition considered.  
**07922 618451.**

### Furniture

**BED** 4ft 6 double, luxury memory  
foam mattress, two drawer divan  
base, all unused, packaged, cost  
over £1,000, accept £235. 07787  
636984.

**DOUBLE BED** with headboard,  
£55. Single wardrobe, £35. Very  
good condition. Must collect. 07759  
639786.

**TV/VIDEO** unit, dark wood, glazed  
section, £20. Also 4ft divan, memory  
foam mattress, as new, £50.  
01384 836459.

### In Your Garden

**C B SHEDS & FENCING**  
We supply & fit. Free quotes.  
Call: 01922 720270  
We also supply sleepers and decking

### Items For Sale

**ALUMINIUM SCAFFOLDING** Tower  
6 x 4 x 20ft tall, complete with stab-  
ilisers, plus a few planks, £100. o.n.o.  
01384 838789.

**CORRUGATED GALVANISED**  
Sheets. New, £8 can deliver.  
Also rooflights and box profile.  
David Broxton on 07834 489558.

### Items Wanted



**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID  
FOR DIE CAST CARS /  
LORRIES**  
Britains, Corgi, Dinky,  
Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint  
and Mamod Engines.  
Best prices paid.  
Any condition.  
Collections bought.  
Telephone 01922 327897  
or 07976 691563.

## WANTED

### AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED

Old oil cans, bottles, shell, BP,  
Esso, Mobil oil anything related.

Enamel signs, old posters  
Classic cars and garage  
clearances.

**01384 836219/07891 713547**  
**BEST CASH PRICE**



**FOR ALL RAILWAY  
COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age

Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/  
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/  
any live steam. Also Die Cast,  
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.

**01384 836219/07891 713547**  
thetrainmaster67@  
hotmail.com



**READERS ARE ADVISED**  
to carefully consider all of their options  
before agreeing to the sale of any  
of their items.

### Photography & Camcorders

**AIR RIFLE** HW100KS 177x3-12 x  
50+7 Ltr BLT+4-14 shot mags +hard  
case 10 months old mint, condition,  
£650 ono. 07891 715354.

## specialists at your service

### Aerials

**A AERIAL & SKY  
ANY TV REPAIRS**  
Digital Aerials Fitted  
Sky & CCTV Cameras  
Free Quotes. 7 days  
07850 330251

## CLASSIFIEDS Tried & Tested...

**I am very  
pleased with the  
great response  
that I get from  
my Classified  
Advertising  
Contract.**

Steve -  
AA Digital Aerials

For great business  
results call

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**ClassifiedAds**

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AERIALS**  
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99  
01902 858191 • 01384 429166  
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

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## PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
Call: 0121 601 9791

### Building Services

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
All Building & Roofing Work  
Driveways, Landscaping  
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed  
Free Quotes: 07837 994465  
01902 831316

### Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

**A CLASS Carpet & Upholstery**  
Cleaning Unbeatable Prices. OAP  
discounts. Call Paul 07870 341089

### Fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
**SPECIAL OFFER**  
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,  
gravel boards **£795**  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
DELIVERY AVAILABLE  
[www.portwayfencing.co.uk](http://www.portwayfencing.co.uk)

### House Clearances

**INFRARED CANNON EOS M** con-  
verted camera, body only, 850NM  
charger, spare battery, good con-  
dition, £195. 07855 103494.

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Sales  
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has done a  
professional job  
on my website to  
help my online  
presence and I  
would recommend  
them to any other  
local businesses.**

Michael -  
Portway Fencing

For great business  
results call

**01902 319 191**

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### Gas Fitting

**READERS ARE ADVISED**  
To check that anyone  
carrying out any Gas work  
is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas  
Safety (Installation and Use)  
Regulations 1998 to carry out  
gas work in the UK without  
being on the Gas Safe Register.

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**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
13 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
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Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs,  
Fascias and Gutters.  
Call 01902 238989 /  
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[www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk](http://www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk)

### Rubbish Removal

**LETS TALK RUBBISH** No skips  
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house clearance. 07969 628382

### Tiling

**AMBER TILING**  
Floors, Walls, Bathrooms  
No jobs too big or small  
**FREE QUOTES CALL:**  
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**07881 671441**

## t.v. / home entertainment

### Service

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky,  
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Free quote/any area. 07850 330251.

## 4 Pets & Animals

### Guns & Dogs

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid  
for house clearances and bene-  
volents. Also removals undertaken.  
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01902 534021

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they  
meet all necessary legal require-  
ments for owning and using guns.

### Pets Corner

### NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when  
purchasing a puppy there are  
some simple guidelines you  
can follow to ensure that you  
are not purchasing from a  
Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given  
any KC documentation, if  
pedigree.

Whilst Midland News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
establishment.

**HAND REARED** baby cockatiel.  
£75.  
07716 847443.

**KIND HOMES WANTED**  
Star, five year old Merle red  
Border Collie.

Bella, 7 month old black  
Labrador.

Jaz, 7 month old Chihuahua.

Bracon, 8 years old black and  
white Border Collie.

Luna, 8 year old Golden Husky  
cross, super temperament.

Charlie, 1 year old honey  
coloured Welsh Border Collie.  
**01588 676106.**

[www.dogsamaritans.org.uk](http://www.dogsamaritans.org.uk)

### SPECIAL WISH

My name is Pepper and I am a  
nine year old cross breed girl. I  
am lovely natured and love to  
play with toys, I am in rescue  
because my elder owner was to  
ill to care for me and that was  
almost a year ago.

I have not been chosen as I do  
not get on well with other dogs,  
I don't want to spend another  
winter in Kennels if there is  
someone out there who will  
love me.

**01588 676106.**  
[www.dogsamaritans.org.uk](http://www.dogsamaritans.org.uk)

## 6 Property

### Accommodation To Let

**SMART ROOMS TO  
RENT, NETHERTON**  
Single En Suite Room £85 p.w.  
Double Room £95 p.w.  
Prices inclusive of Bills  
No DSS. 2 weeks deposit.  
**07940 116130**

### Coast & Country

### PEMBROKSHIRE

4 bedroom house, vacant,

in quite good order with lovely

walk to the estuary

**£125,000 for quick sale.**

**01568 708618.**

## SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

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EVERY MONDAY**

**THE ONLY READ  
FOR REAL FANS**

To advertise in final whistle call our experienced  
sales team on 01902 31 31 31

**FINAL WHISTLE**



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www.black-country-homes.co.uk

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Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**  
**Houses / Land Required**  
We also buy Commercial Property  
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Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049  
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901  
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**We will buy your house fast!**

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!  
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!  
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

**FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!**

Call **0121 663 1403**  
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yeshomebuyers.com

**7**  
**Jobs**

**Courses**

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We provide Training in:  
• First Aid / Health & Safety • Safe Moving & Handling • Security (SIA)  
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**EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER**  
requires employment, all kinds of brickwork. 07341 021774.

**SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL**  
**01902 317878**

**Classified Ads**

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Requires casual / part time work.  
Own van / tools.  
Telephone **01384 375672**  
or **07527 360303**.

**8**  
**Motoring**

**Cars Over £1500**

**IMMACULATE**

**TOYOTA AYGO**  
2015  
10,500 miles, chilli red  
Adapted as a towcar to include A frame  
Immaculate condition  
MoT  
£7,500.  
07519 626949.



**FIAT 500 LOUNGE**  
2011, 52000 miles, glass roof service history £30 tax, long service history, abs, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, power steering  
£4,299 ono  
07879403302

**Cars Over £1500**

**IDEAL FIRST CAR**  
**CITROEN C1 VTR**  
2011, 61 Reg., 3Dr, red, Air con, remote central locking, PAS, 12 months MoT, 37,000 miles, any trial. Previous Cat S.  
£1,975 o.n.o.  
07923 132859.

**Cars Under £1500**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**FORD STREETKA CONVERTIBLE**  
03, Royal blue, 11 months MOT, no advisories, good runner.  
£650 ono  
07584 938751.

**GOOD RUNNER**

**PEUGEOT 207**  
1.4, 57 reg, 61,000 miles, black, 5-dr, 11 months MoT, alloys, CD, electric windows, mirrors, new clutch fitted, no knocks or bangs, runs and drives spot on,  
£1,095 ono.  
07415 013857.



**RENAULT CLIO**  
2004, 87k miles, black, MOT Til Feb 2019, sunroof, air bag, CD player, EW, EM, very clean interior, smart exterior few bumps, Drives perfectly, recently serviced. £550 ono  
07772922510



**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE**  
2007, 65100 miles, black, one owner, alloys, electric windows, MoT, stereo, air bag, full service history, tax, central locking, power steering, CD player.  
Excellent condition  
£1,250 ono  
07760372786

## MUST BE SEEN

**VW GOLF GT TDI**  
1.9, totally original, long MoT, excellent condition inside and out, dark blue,  
£1075.  
07547 566395.

## BARGAIN

**VW POLO 1.0 SALOON**  
1986,  
12 months MoT,  
Good condition,  
£300 ono.  
01902 783416.

## Motorbikes

**SUZUKI GS500**  
Y reg, full MoT, 55,291 miles, overhauled £1,000 spent.  
£1,800.  
Part exchange upto £700, 125cc or 250cc.  
Details 07484 317193.

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**mainline Salvage & Recovery**  
• **SCRAP CARS WANTED**  
• **FREE COLLECTION**  
• **TOP PRICES PAID**  
Fully Licensed • C.O.D Issued  
No Fines • No Comebacks  
1000's of vehicle parts in stock  
01902 871111 • 07772 240819  
07895 346811  
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

## A1 SF RECOVERY

**SCRAP CARS WANTED**  
£100 Minimum Guaranteed paid for complete cars  
Collection 7 days a week  
**07813 184611**  
**ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT**  
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered  
Spares Always Available  
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.  
Oldbury Area.  
OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**spares & accessories**

**Accessories & Services**

**LOCK-UP GARAGE** Woodcross, £11 per week, good access. 01902 883037.

## Vehicles Wanted

**alan reed cars**  
Used cars wanted for cash  
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# Peugeot's Rifter is versatile and with an unsurpassed list of uses

By John Griffiths

**It's official designation is 'leisure activity vehicle' but it's easy to see a business role too for the latest car unveiled by Peugeot.**

Originally passenger cars derived from a van platform, a sector which Renault and sister company Citroën have very much made their own. Now the latest member of the PSA group, Vauxhall, has joined the party with its Combo Life.

Peugeot's new model is the unusually named Rifter, spiritual successor to its Partner Teepee but with even more flexibility in that it will be sold in standard or long body lengths and with the option of five or seven seats – and a cavernous cargo capacity of up to 4,000 litres.

It's hard to imagine a more practical and versatile car with an unsurpassed list of uses. There's the small businessman who needs a workhorse during the week and family transport at the weekend, those transporting wheelchairs or mobility scooters, and the active leisure sector carrying bikes, camping gear and the like.

There are no less than 28 separate storage compartments in the cabin. For example, a large 'glovebox' is big enough for a tablet or laptop, and naturally includes a charging socket.

At the other end of the car, the rear window can be opened separately to the whole tailgate in tight spots, and reveals a roof mounted storage box which can be accessed from inside or out.

Plus large rear sliding doors on either side allow easy loading of people or property.

## Efficient

As well as the five/seven seat option, the Rifter is built on a new platform from the world of cars rather than vans, with a choice of efficient petrol and diesel engines and the latest technology, including Peugeot's i-Cockpit, acclaimed for both its style and efficiency.

Priced from £19,650 to £27,320, the Rifter comes with a choice of the multi-award winning 1.2 litre 'PureTech' petrol engines rated at either 109 or 129bhp, or a 1.5 litre 'BlueHDI' turbo diesel with either 75, 101 or 129bhp.

The long wheelbase is 35 centimetres longer than the standard model (and slightly higher) with a longer wheelbase, which allows for its two extra seats with generous head and legroom.

All the rear seats can be folded down, as can the front passenger seat, to allow you to stow cargo up to three metres long.



**There's no all-wheel drive option, but it does have the high 'command' driving position much loved by SUV owners, for easy access and excellent visibility.**

Cargo capacity is a generous 770 litres, but according to how you configure individual seats you can increase this to a whopping 4,000 litres.

There's no all-wheel drive option, but it does have the high 'command' driving position much loved by SUV owners, for easy access and excellent visibility.

For those with active leisure lifestyles, the Rifter has high ground clearance and, depending on the model (or as an option) there is an active grip dial. Just dial in the appropriate setting and electronics adjust the car's responses for maximum traction on roads, in the mud or on snow.

It also features hill descent control and Rifters fitted with this feature also get mud and snow tyres.

The 1.5 turbo diesel has a surprisingly high level of torque (300Nm from just 1,750rpm) so waits the Rifter along smoothly and quietly.

The driving experience is all car, with a smooth ride from a suspension system which is also capable of tackling faster corners without noticeable body roll. It's nippy, too.

The 0 to 62mph dash takes 10.5 seconds while average

fuel consumption is impressive at more than 65mpg. Its CO2 emissions rating is 114g/km.

The Peugeot i-cockpit consists of a small steering wheel (with remote controls for various functions) allowing a clear view of the digital instrument panel, mounted so high it's almost akin to a head-up display, allowing the driver a clear view of essential information without having to look down.

There is also a central colour control screen for audio, phone, navigation and connectivity systems.

In addition there's a host of safety equipment, including adaptive cruise control, active lane departure warning system, blind spot monitoring system and the optional "Visiopark180 degree" colour reversing camera.

Peugeot and its sister car maker have taken a lead in the leisure activity market and the new Rifter is a major step forward, for its levels of equipment, more refined driving experience and, most importantly, the option of two body lengths and five or seven seats which make it an even more impressive proposition.



## Diesel uncertainty leads to big savings

**Concern over diesel emissions and a growing backlash against the fuel has led to major discounts, research has found.**

An investigation by consumer publication What Car? found 'achievable' discounts of £2,995 on some of the country's most popular diesel SUVs.

Though discounts across the new car market as a whole averaged eight per cent, some popular models were available with significantly larger sums off. For example, diesel models of the Mitsubishi Outlander were discounted by 22 per cent – a saving of more than £5,000. The model has now been phased out, with Mitsubishi focusing on petrol and hybrid powertrains.

The analysis was conducted by mystery shoppers, asking dealers for discounts on 7,500 new cars.

What Car? editor Steve Huntingford said: "It's interesting to see dealers finally start to offer bigger discounts on large SUVs, because traditionally these have been some of the hardest cars to negotiate on. However, large SUVs tend to be diesels, and the negative publicity and threat of future diesel taxes could well have played a part."

"The fact that there are so many models for people to choose from now has probably also played a part."

Motorists wishing to secure the biggest discounts should steer clear of both the top and bottom end of the market, according to the research. The manufacturer that offered the least discount on average was Porsche, which simply refused to take any money off the price of its cars. Other premium manufacturers in the bottom 10 were Infiniti, Land Rover and Lexus.

# Škoda dials into future with virtual cockpit

**Škoda is introducing a new, fully programmable digital instrument panel to its Karoq, Octavia, Superb and Kodiaq ranges – giving customers the option to replace traditional analogue dials and gauges with a high-definition electronic display for the first time.**

The virtual cockpit advanced display technology has, until now, been reserved for luxury models, and the introduction of the system is further proof of Škoda's passion for offering high-end features to all car buyers. The virtual cockpit will initially be offered as an option on Karoq, Octavia and Superb models, with the Kodiaq set to follow later this year.

Virtual cockpit is an advanced digital display that takes the place of traditional dials, gauges and sub-screens. At the heart of the system is a super sharp TFT display that has been specifically designed for 3D impression graphics and exceptional clarity. The graphics processor enables the content to be displayed quickly and vibrantly, improving the way drivers interact with their car and the road.

Thanks to the digital display, drivers can customise the layout of the screen to suit their tastes and journey needs. In total, five different basic layouts are available, all of which can be individually programmed to fine-tune their appearance.

The classic layout presents both the tachometer and the speedometer as round instruments to the right and left of the display. The area between can be configured – for example with a display of the current entertainment programme or navigation map.

The extended layout has a main display covering the entire width of the panel – for example with the current entertainment program or navigation map. Above and below, there is still space for small digital displays, for instance, for the current speed, gear recommendation, traffic sign recognition, distance remaining, distance to the next turn on the programmed route or the distance to the destination.

The modern layout has a large display in the centre, which can display the navigation map, among other things. Additional information can be placed to the left, right, and above the map. The driver may choose to display the current speed, a navigation display with pictograms, gear selection, traffic sign detection (e.g. speed limits, driving times).

The basic layout shows two large displays – such as the current speed and the distance remaining. Additional basic information can be displayed at the top and bottom of the display. If the route guidance is activated, the navigation



arrow will be displayed in the centre. The sports layout shows a single, centralised, large dial containing the speedometer and rev counter, with space for additional customisable information to be placed at either side of the dial.

Virtual cockpit is available to order as an option now, and can be specified on Octavia and Superb models from SE variants upwards at a cost of £450

including VAT). For Škoda's SUV range, the technology is available on Karoq from SE L upwards for £450 including VAT, and Kodiaq from SE L upwards. The system is priced at £450 including VAT for SportLine, Edition and L&K variants, and £550 including when specified on SE L and Scout models. Virtual Cockpit will be available to order on Kodiaq models later this year.



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# Kia hatch gets a new high-spec trim

The all-new Kia Ceed 'GT-Line' takes design cues from the higher-powered Ceed GT model revealed earlier this month, and will go on-sale across Europe during the first quarter of 2019.

Strengthening the appeal of Kia's new mid-size family car range, the new Ceed 'GT-Line' is available on every variant of the new Ceed, including the five-door hatchback and Ceed Sportswagon. The new shooting brake bodystyle of the ProCeed is sold as standard in 'GT-Line' specification. Drawing inspiration from Kia's new high-powered Ceed and ProCeed GT models, all three 'GT-Line' models offers a high level of versatility, turbocharged engines and engaging handling, topped with a sporty new look inside and out.

The Ceed 'GT-Line' is available with a choice of powertrains: Kia's 1.0-litre and 1.4-litre T-GDi (Turbocharged Gasoline Direct Injection) engines, or Kia's 1.6-litre 'Smartstream' CRDi (Common-Rail Direct Injection) diesel engine. The downsized range of powertrains contribute to the car's agile handling characteristics.

The Ceed 'GT-Line's' exterior introduces a range of distinct GT-inspired design features. These include a satin chrome and gloss black 'tiger-nose' grille surround, unique 17-inch or 18-inch 'GT-Line' alloy wheels, and newly designed front and rear bumpers which echo those of the Ceed and ProCeed GT. The fog lamp surround also incorporates horizontal metallic 'blades', similar to those found on the new GT models and the Kia Stinger. The range of Ceed 'GT-Line' models is available in a choice of 10 paint finishes.

Inside, Ceed 'GT-Line' models distinguish themselves with a series of changes designed



**There are newly designed rear bumpers** to introduce a sportier ambience to the cabin. The grey roof lining of the Ceed and Ceed Sportswagon is replaced with black cloth to cocoon occupants, and the door sills feature metallic scuff plates. 'GT-Line' models are fitted with a sporty D-shaped steering wheel as standard, and – for models equipped with Kia's double-clutch transmission – drivers can change gear with metallic steering wheel paddles.

The Ceed 'GT-Line' is fitted with new sports seats for front passengers. The 'GT-Line' front seats feature larger side bolsters than those found in conventional Ceed models and are trimmed in black cloth and light grey synthetic leather. Sports seats with the same supportive structure as the Ceed and ProCeed GT will be available, with the larger side and thigh bolsters from the higher-powered models in the line-up. These seats are finished in black leather and suede with grey stitching and piping. Models trimmed in full leather upholstery are available with heated and ventilated front seats and heated rear seats. 'GT-Line' models are available with a



The Ceed 'GT-Line's' exterior introduces a range of distinct GT-inspired design features

choice of turbocharged engines from the conventional Ceed model range. These include Kia's lightweight three-cylinder 1.0-litre T-GDi engine, producing 120 ps and 172 Nm of torque. The 1.4-litre 'Kappa' T-GDi is also available, with power and torque outputs of 140 ps and 242 Nm, respectively. The Ceed 'GT-Line' is also available with Kia's all-new 'Smartstream' 1.6-litre CRDi diesel engine, available with a choice of two power outputs – 115 or 136 ps – in Ceed and Ceed Sportswagon models. The ProCeed 'GT-Line' offers drivers the higher-powered

of the two engines. Every engine is paired with a six-speed manual transmission, while 1.4-litre T-GDi and 1.6-litre CRDi engines are available with Kia's seven-speed double-clutch transmission.

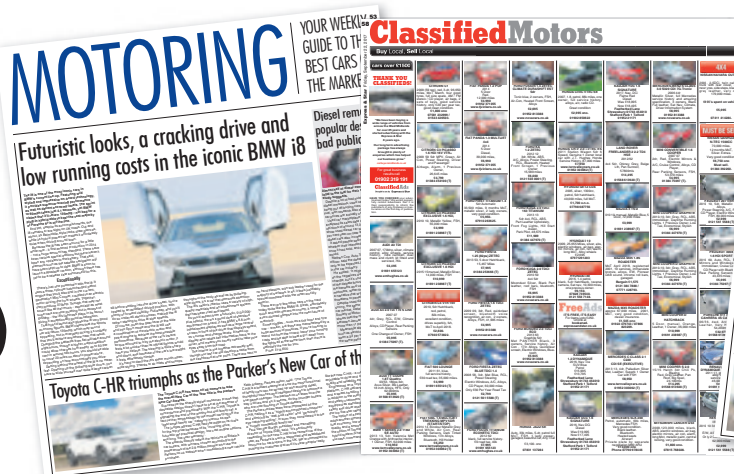
The Ceed 'GT-Line' offers drivers a wide array of comfort, convenience and safety technologies. This includes the standard 'floating' infotainment system, available as either a 7.0-inch touchscreen audio system or 8.0-inch touchscreen satellite navigation system with navigation and Kia Connected Services powered by TomTom®. The system

enables full smartphone integration with Apple CarPlay™ and Android Auto™.

Standard technologies include full Bluetooth® smartphone integration with voice recognition, automatic lights, and keyless entry. Other comfort and convenience technologies include a JBL Premium sound system with Clari-Fi music restoration technology. A heated windshield melts away frost, ice and windscreen mist at the push of a button. A wireless smartphone charger, heated and ventilated front seats, and heated rear seats are also available.

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Blackwell, left, celebrating success with Stourbridge



Blackwell, right during his days with Hednesford



Blackwell tends to an injured player at Halesowen



Blackwell helps an injured player off the pitch

# Gavin is still getting them fit for Saturday

**YOU** would be hard-pressed to find a physio who has been around in non-league longer than Gavin Blackwell.

Having treated thousands of injuries and travelled thousands of miles, Blackwell is now in the 31st season of doing what he loves.

He is out to keep the likes of former Wolves striker Sylvan Ebanks-Blake and ex-Baggie Lee Hughes in tip-top shape at Halesowen Town.

Blackwell has not only taken care of players at The Grove, though. Oldbury United, Stourbridge, Tividale, Hednesford Town, Wolves' academy and Albion reserves have also been the beneficiaries of his thorough work.

Naturally, he has come across many different characters during his time – some will be more than happy to listen to his advice, others are just desperate to be out on the pitch.

"Some had low morale and some needed an arm around the shoulder," he said.

## Grumbling

"They weren't all as keen as mustard to play if they had a little niggle. And if a player's not happy you may as well leave him out, because he's going to be grumbling and moaning and using it as an excuse.

"Some always wanted to play. Others are not bothered if it takes another week or two."

Blackwell's mantra is 'keeping the show on the road' and that sometimes means compromises have to be made.

Giving an insight into what the role entails, he said: "The physiotherapist is part of the backroom team.

"At our level, this is using a squad of players of about 16 to 18. A difficult equation and one that doesn't work a great deal of the time.

"There are always at least two long-term injuries who are definitely out of the next game, and a string of running repairs who will play but have to be nursed from training until the last minute.

"Add to that suspensions, simple illness, and you can see that a good deal of juggling goes on.

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

**"No matter how much the techniques, facilities, budgets and the nuts and bolts change, though, you still need the right people to implement these and to motivate the players"**

"Against this background, the physiotherapist has to make clinical judgement in the first place and then understand the manager's dilemma and help to keep the show on the road, with pragmatic compromises.

"The long-term injuries are not up for discussion and are accepted as being non-combatant for the moment.

"The short term, grey area injuries – the slight thigh strain, the slight tweaked ankle, the direct kicks and knocks suffered in training – raise the question 'Fit for Saturday?' and that isn't a criticism, just a statement of fact of how it is, and how it has to be.

## Advanced

"The club is in the business of playing football matches, fielding teams and hopefully winning."

Blackwell has had the honour of being part of many successful sides, too.

The Southern League Cup, the Southern League Midland Division title and the Northern Premier League play-offs are just a few things he has been involved in winning over his many years.

Technology has advanced drastically in Blackwell's time as a physio – there are so many ways injuries can be treated now, and steps to take to prevent them.

There only used to be one substitute when he started, too – but things are very different now with up to five allowed in non league.

But he insists the fundamentals of the role remain the same.

"The more things change the more they stay the same," said Blackwell.

"The progress in surgical procedures have cut down the post-operative physiotherapy dramatically. We have also been helped by advances in surgery, rehabilitation and diagnosis. When I started the only investigation was an x-ray.

"Now we have CT scan, MRI scans, ultrasound scans, and isotype bone scans. Together with surgery advancements, especially to the knee and the anterior cruciate ligament injuries, we have it all.

"No matter how much techniques, facilities, budgets and the nuts and bolts change, though, you still need the right people to implement these and to motivate the players through a sometimes difficult and desperate period in their career."

## Slog

In his first 31st year, Blackwell loves the game as much as ever.

He has no plans to call it a day anytime soon and added: "It can be a slog, particularly if things aren't going well.

"Evening training, travelling, playing games going through the range of emotions together can take its toll.

"It can be a 24/7 existence for 10 months of the year. You have to have a certain mindset to deal with it. You become obsessed with the game. I need to be with the team at all times," he added.

"Holidays can only be booked around June time and public holidays, weddings, parties and other social events have to take a back seat. Football is in my blood and it is a way of life."

## Stewart to debut at world championship

BILSTON'S Elliot Stewart is set to make his debut at the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Judo Championships in November.

Stewart, son of 1988 Olympic bronze medallist Dennis Stewart, lost most of his sight at the start of 2017 and has only been fighting at international level since August 2017.

However, he has already won bronze medals at the Tashkent and Antalya World Cups.

His brother Max is also a high-level judoka and is looking to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. British Judo performance director Nigel Donohue – who has selected an eight-strong squad – said: "As always, we're excited to take on the best in the world at a major championships.

"The standard of visually-impaired judo is improving year on year but our judoka are showing that they are of the level with some fantastic results in this cycle. There's still a lot of hard work to be done but we're confident the results will come."

## BDO champ Durrant set for Grand Slam

GLEN Durrant will return to the Grand Slam of Darts in Wolverhampton next month. The British Darts Organisation (BDO) world champion will be part of the 32-player field at Aldersley Leisure Village this year while the Civic Hall undergoes refurbishment.

He will be joined by former Lakeside champion Scott Michell, who will be making his fourth Grand Slam appearance, and Lakeside Championship runner-up Mark McGeeney, who featured in the 2017 tournament.

Dutchman Wesley Harms will also return to the Grand Slam for the first time in four years, having previously competed on three occasions.

Newly-crowned World Masters champion Adam Smith-Neale will be making his Wolverhampton debut, along with Jim Williams, Gary Robson and Michael Unterbuchner.

It is the only tournament of the year the two main darts organisations come together – with Professional Darts Corporation world champion Rob Cross and world No.1 Michael van Gerwen set to lead the PDC challenge.

## Arena on track for top-class athletics

ATHLETICS returns to the Arena Birmingham in 2019 with two prestigious meetings early in the new year.

British Athletics kick off the indoor season with the SPAR British Athletics Indoor Championships on February 9 and 10. As well as deciding who is crowned one of 26 British champions from the schedule of events, the weekend of action will also determine which athletes represent Great Britain & Northern Ireland at the European Indoor Championships in Glasgow from March 1-3.

A week after the 63rd renewal of the SPAR indoor championships, superstars of track and field headline the Muller Indoor Grand Prix Birmingham, ranked as the best one-day indoor meeting in the world.

Over the years this meeting has seen British stars such as Sir Mo Farah, Dina Asher-Smith and Laura Muir regularly appear alongside the world's very best athletes and 2019's event will see more world-class head-to-heads expected to compete.





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## Glassboys unleash own storm Callum

### Stourbridge 2 Royston 1

HIGH winds might have made the match something of a lottery, yet it was a very different Storm Callum which ultimately helped Stourbridge secure a fifth straight win.

Callum Powell's 87th-minute strike was enough to earn the Glassboys a 2-1 win over Royston. It was also the spark for several minutes of madness as Royston boss Steve Castle went to war, first with the officials and then with the crowd, after being sent off for his protests.

The former Blues midfielder's frustrations were understandable, given the fact visiting defender Jordan Norvell-Williams appeared to be clearly fouled by Stour's Luke Benbow in the build-up to the goal.

Yet his reaction, particularly when leaving the pitch, was wholly unnecessary. Castle's loss of cool translated to his team and Stour saw out seven minutes of stoppage time with relative ease, for a result which also extended their unbeaten run to 10 matches.

It was Stour who had led at the break thanks to Robbie Thompson-Brown's goal just moments before the half time whistle.

### Stourbridge 4 Bedworth United 1

Glassboys thrashed winless Bedworth United to move up to second in Southern Central.

Greg Mills opened the scoring from the penalty spot after Chekaine Steele was fouled, before Steele turned scorer to double Stourbridge's advantage. Another penalty from Mills made it 3-0 before Steele finished off a Mills cross. Veteran former Coventry City striker Iyseden Christie pulled one back late on.

## Yeltz run comes to a halt in Suffolk

### Leiston 4 Halesowen 0

HALESOWEN Town's recent good league run came to an end in Suffolk as the home side moved up to fourth place.

The Yeltz were unbeaten in six games heading into the match and hoping to gain ground on the play-off places, only to be denied by two goals in each half.

Jake Reed and Byron Lawrence scored before the break, with Matt Blake and Christy Finch netting from the spot after the interval.

The visitors had got off to the worst possible start by conceding a goal on just 15 seconds when Blake played a through-ball to Reed, who ran through the visiting defence to score.

John Hill's men tried to get back into the game in windy conditions, Tobias Hayles-Docherty shooting over on 11 minutes and then seeing a corner cleared. Reed went close again before Marcus Garnham produced a fine save to deny Lee Hughes at the other end. Then Lawrence made it 2-0 for the home side three minutes before the break.

## Tough start in division 2 for swimmers

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to Cheslyn Hay to compete in round one of the National Arena League.

Having been demoted to division two Halesowen were hoping for a strong performance in the opening gala to show early form in the battle to get back into division one.

In a gala featuring some of the top contenders for promotion, Halesowen found the going tough and finished fourth on the evening. There were, however, lots of highlights with Halesowen win-

ning only one fewer race than the victorious team from Ripley.

Individual event winners were Olivia Jay in the ladies' 100m breaststroke, Adam Ryan in the 13 and under boys' 100m backstroke, Jacob Bailey in the 15 and under boys' 100m backstroke, Ryan Larkin in the men's 100m backstroke, Jack Simpson in the men's 100m freestyle and Josh Bradley in the men's 100m butterfly.

The ladies' and men's relay teams were dominant on the evening winning every relay event.

The ladies' medley team were Emma Bird, Amber Robbins, Georgia Lees and Katie Morrice, were joined by Olivia Jay and Eliza Bradley to win the freestyle relay.

The men's medley relay team were Jack Simpson, Ryan Larkin, Mark Laing and Zachariah Collins, they were joined by Josh Bradley and Jacob Bailey to win the freestyle relay.

Final scores were: Ripley Rascals 214, Northgate 205, Pershore 184, Halesowen 158, City of Coventry B 149, Coalville 125.

# RETURN TO THE CLASSIC TT

**A LOVE of classic motorbikes has taken Andrew Davies across the UK and around the iconic Isle of Man TT circuit during his 15-year club racing career.**

Sitting behind a desk by day, working as a finance director at a Black Country business, Davies spends most of his evenings and weekends in his shed working on race-winning bikes.

His love of two-stroke TZR 250cc Yamahas has shaped his racing career.

"I kept blasting round on the roads and ended up in a hedge one day, so I thought I'd better give track racing a go," says Davies, from Stourbridge.

### Won

"After a few track days I got the bug and in my first full season I won the championship, which was the Streetstock 400 for bikes that had an MOT. That was when I bought my first two-stroke TZR 250cc Yamaha but I was up against 400cc four-stroke machines.

"I did that for a couple of years but then some riders started turning up with a one-day MOT, which meant they were pretty much proper race bikes.

"With my budget I didn't stand a chance of winning, despite still coming in the top three. I've always done all my own bike prep and tuned my own engines but I was just spending more and more time working on it just to compete, but it taught me a lot."

The 48-year-old then moved into the Formula 400 class. "I would usually at least get a top 10 finish but then I had a go at the 250GP race class," he said. "Picking up another bike and taking it out against the factory-support teams was a real eye-opener. Again, I was spending so much money on them, especially clutches and tyres, but I was not getting any battles, which is what you want when you're racing."



Andrew Davies' love of two-stroke TZR 250cc Yamahas has shaped his racing career

"I changed back to the Yamaha Past Masters class in 2007, which is what I've stuck with ever since. It's for Rd 350 LC's, YPVS, and TZR 250 bikes and since entering that I've been involved with some brilliant racing because the riders are so evenly matched.

Davies sold that bike in 2009 to Graham Higlet, from Norwich, who went on to win the championship on it twice. "It was me who was maintaining it for him too," said Davies, who then moved into the F400 Sub-64 class in 2010 - for bikes with less than 64 break horsepower - up to 400cc engine size.

"I went also on to win the Sub-64 class championship and carried on with that for a couple

of years. I then moved back to the Yamaha Past Masters class and converted my road bike back into a race bike, finishing in the top five."

Away from the circuits, the lure of racing his prized classic bikes on the roads was too much to ignore. There was no better place to try his hand than at the Classic TT. Despite winning and clocking an average lap speed of 96mph around the iconic 37.73-mile mountain course, he was refused entry in 2015 and forced to drop out in 2016 and 2017 due to operations.

"I came back this year because I knew I was finally 100 per cent fit again," he said. "I increased my lap speed to 98mph despite having a rubbish practice week, blighted by the weather."

HALESOWEN Cricket Club have announced Richard Brooker is the club's new manager. He will oversee the club's senior cricket teams.

He will chair the club's cricket committee which consists of the head of senior cricket Richard Cox and senior captains including Alexei Kervezee.

President Trevor Argent said "Richard's breadth of ideas, his passion for cricket and his proven leadership skills are second to none. He was an exceptional club captain, is an authoritative voice on the modern game and has a wealth of experience building successful teams. Richard is also widely respected across the local cricketing landscape. We're delighted that he's re-joining us as we continue to push the club forward, on and off the field."

Brooker said: "It's great to be back involved with the club after a year out. The club has made great strides in the last few years and the aim is to keep pushing the club forward."

Richard Evans, who has stepped down as club chairman, said: "After much consideration over the last couple of months and in particular since the conclusion of the 2018 season, I have decided to step down from my role as chairman. I have been proud to carry out this role over a number of years but feel that now is the right time for somebody with fresh ideas."

"I would like to thank members, and my family in particular, for their support over the past five years in a role that has been all-consuming and challenging. I have thrown myself wholeheartedly into the role and am proud of the achievements both on and off the field. The club is left with a stronger playing side at all levels, a stronger junior section and facilities as good as any in the county. It is these achievements that I will be most proud of."

"I will work with committee on a transitional phase over the next couple of weeks and wish my successor the best of luck."

During his chairmanship the club returned to Division One of the Birmingham and District Premier League, won the Canterbury Cup at New Road, the second XI achieved promotion to the Premier League and the third XI clinched the Worcestershire County League Division Four title. The playing facilities have undergone a complete transformation. President Argent will act as interim club chairman.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, October 18, 2018

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